

1-86



# SPARKS

**Tri-State Amateur Radio Society**  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXVII No. XII January 1986



## OFFICERS:

President Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Vice Pres. John Lenn, WA9IVE  
Secretary Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

## DIRECTORS:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Cliff McGuyer, W9CM  
George Utley, N9FMO  
Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE

## SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572

T.A.R.S. regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelbach Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time.  
The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net.

## First Class Mail

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

0044  
Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

1985  
W9AIN

IN



## ARES MEETING

The next ARES meeting will be Sunday January 12, 1986 at the Indiana State Police Post on Highway 41 near I-64. The meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. Evansville Time / 3:00 P.M. Gibson County Time. Still confused as to what time talk-in on the 146.79/19 machine.

This meeting is to acquaint ARES members with some of the new equipment recently installed at the Post and to introduce you to our new District Emergency Coordinator; Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE.

If you haven't been to the State Police Post here's a good chance before the weather gets bad.

You do not have to be a member of ARES or TARS or any other group to attend. Membership applications will be available for ARES if you desire to sign up; however come even if you are new to Ham Radio or just interested in seeing what ARES is about. See you there.

73 KA9LQM

## Jim Shoptaugh Wins McCutchan Award for 85

The 1985 winner of the McCutchan Award is Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE. Hal Wilson presented the Award to Jim at the TARS Christmas Party at the Log Inn. Also honored through the award committee was the outgoing president, Jim Shoptaugh. Gavels were to be presented to several past presidents of TARS; however they were unable to be present at the Christmas party so their gavels will be presented by Hal as soon as possible.

The McCutchan award was established in 1977 by local businessman and civic leader Ellis Carson (VP2KC) to honor his friend and Silent Key John E. McCutchan. John was an avid Amateur who gave freely of his time, knowledge and skills to teach many of the I.S.U.E./TARS license classes. It was through one of these classes that he met Ellis Carson.

Ellis Carson became a Silent Key in the Spring of 1984 and will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to know him. The McCutchan Award will continue in the future in memory of both John McCutchan and Ellis Carson.

Jim has been very active in TARS as Vice-President in 1982, and 1983. President in 1984 and 1985; recently he was appointed as District Emergency Coordinator which involves duties in several Southern Indiana Counties. This year Jim was also elected to the Board of Directors; so his involvement with TARS will not end.

The McCutchan Award is the most prestigious award a TARS member can receive but the three person nominating committee is independent of the local club. This years committee included Hal Wilson, permanent chairman, plus the two most recent recipients of the award; Blanche Elpers (1983) and Bob Bengert (1984). In every club there are always the members who give more than their share of time and talents to the benefit of the organization and Amateur Radio. The McCutchan award was established to honor these very special people and to say a public thank you for all they accomplish.



**Treasurer's Report**

## TREASURER REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1986

**From th White House**

(the little one on washington avenue)

Happy 1986 to all reading this message. I hope by the time you read this your New Year has gotten off to a great start!

The December meeting took place at the Log Inn and for those of you not present I can assure you we conducted a lot of business and it was truly delicious!

I would like to congratulate Jim KA9KRE as the 1985 recipient of the McCutchan award. I must admit it is the only time I have seen KRE speechless.

This year promises to be a busy one for our club. The May Hamfest, Voluntary Examiner Program, Field Day and Thunder on the Ohio come to mind and they are just a few of our activities.

When someone involved with the above calls you for some help please be generous with your time and talents. We need you!

Charlie N9DYE is our Hamfest Chairman this year. Since we are moving the site of the Hamfest we need all of our members to be involved with spreading the word. I know this all might sound a bit premature but the months roll around quicker than you think. With this event being our only fundraiser we have to give it our all. If you have any ideas to improve the event please contact Charlie or any officer or board member. We want our Hamfest to be good and \$ucce\$\$ful!

The New Year is the perfect time for changes, if you see something that will improve our club, let us know. Member input and involvement is vital.

May we all have a prosperous New Year!

73 Carolyn KA9LMO

Balance as of December 1, 1985

\$3651.90

## Income

Christmas Party Reservations....	355.00
Left Over Prize Money.....	12.00
Interest.....	14.59

Total Income ----- \$381.59

\$4033.49

## Expenses

Sparks & Postage .....	57.50
Refreshments.....	41.79
Christmas Party.....	537.60
Prize Money (xmas party).....	250.00
Flowers.....	26.25

Total Expenses ..... \$ 913.14

\$3120.35

Balance as of December 31, 1985

\$3120.35

BOARD MEETING Nov. 21, 1985 at American Red Cross Building

Members present were KA9KRE, KA9LMO, N9DYE, W9GJ, WD9HUK, KA9LQM, KA9EIV and new member W9CM.

N9DYE reported balance in treasury of \$3633.00. Board approved check for printing of Sparks & club meeting refreshments. Treasurer to present to Board at each meeting a list of checks written since last meeting -- list to include check no., payee and amount.

New Secretary, W9GJ, to fill out and send in form to FCC as the Club liaison on TVI.

VE test dates for 1986 set at May 18 (Hamfest Day), August 23 and November 22.

OK'D \$250.00 for Christmas party door prizes

KA9EIV to send radiogram to WD9DVA stating 220 link equipment not for sale.

KA9LQM is working on Club Logo with caption "Ham Radio Emergency Communications" to be shown on local TV Stations.

Club constitution will be updated and rewritten if necessary after the first of next year.

KA9EIV Acting Secretary

Sincere condolences to John Dilges, K9GKR, on the passing of his mother.

December 13, 1986 Board Meeting

List of Checks listing Payee, Amount and Date per Nov. Board Meeting was presented by Treasurer, Charlie Sartore, List was approved by the board of Directors.

KA9LQM Acting Secretary



## On the Grapevine

Congratulations to Old Post Amateur Radio Society member John Hanes, KA9LDE on being awarded the 1985 Amateur of the Year Award by OPARS.

A new B & W antenna was installed at the Civic Center for Civil Defense HF use on New Years eve by KA9KRE and WA9IVE. KA9LQM's timing was excellent; he arrived just as the project was completed.

The March Shuttle Flight STS-61E with Ron Parise, WA4SIR will carry the Sarex II Packet experiment. This TNC operating in the robot mode has the capability of QSOing 1 station per second, or 10,000 contacts. Unable to keep records of all of these contacts the logs will be beamed down for all ground stations to copy. Now we'll have instant acknowledgment of our contact.

VE Testing in Owensboro, Ky is scheduled for January 25, 1986. Contact AA4FQ for additional information.

Brice Anderson, W9PNE reports his first QSO on 176.3 KC. He has spent a long time waiting for this; 166 miles to NE of Indy using 1 Watt and a vertical antenna. Receiving antenna was a 390 ft. long wire. Want to listen in; new Heathkit catalog has a converter for the LFER band. R.A.D.I.O. Net is Tuesday nights on 146.94/34 at 9:00 P.M.

Jim KA9KRE and John WA9IVE have been reported to be handing out Cigars for the new Grandsons. See if you can get a bubble gum Cigar out of one of the guys next time you see them.

## Hamfest Schdule

The following list includes all known Hamfest in Indiana for 1986.

Jan 5	South Bend
Feb 23	La Porte
Mar 2	Winchester
9	Martinsville
May 18 *	Wabash
18	TARS, Evansville
Jun 1	Terra Haute
8	Muncie
15	Lake County
Jul 12 & 13	Indiana State Convention, Indy Hamfest
Aug 3 *	Angola
10	Marion
17	Lafayette
24 *	Argos
31 *	Bloomington
Oct 12 *	Bedford
Nov 9	Fort Wayne

Dates with asterisks (\*) have not been confirmed.

Indiana Section ARRL Letter

## Hospital Notes

Deaconess Hospital is still taking good care of George, WA9OCO and Noel, WD9HUR. Why not send the guys a get well card to let them know you are thinking about them.

## Mistakes

### LOOKING FOR MISTAKES

If you find mistakes in this publication; please consider the fact that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone and, some people ALWAYS ARE LOOKING FOR MISTAKES!

## Editor's Notebook

de KA9LQM

Christmas Party; A good time was had by all. Being married to the new President of TARS is a difficult task at best; but when she is on crutches it's even worse. Just in case you thought I might have given her a bad safety belt; IT'S NOT TRUE I bought the best belt the Hong Kong Mailorder house sold for \$19.95.

Our new Prez has a few things in store for this year. Also the VP, WA9IVE will be trying to get a new program started in the local school system. If John asks you to help with this important project; say YES.

As usual in January we will be having an AUCTION; sure hope we have more to auction off this year. I need to fill up my supply of good Hamfest Junk, I mean Treasures to sell.

If anyone would like a copy of the Packet Station List. Send a SASE with 44 cents postage to me at the address on the front of Sparks. This list is growing rapidly and a revised list is printed weekly. It has grown to nine pages which is just too large for Sparks.

Still have that RTTY or ASCII equipment in the shack; dust it off John Kell, K9TKE has a mailbox on 145.800 simplex running 100 WPM; however you can set speed and mode once you log on. Call me for additional info on log-on procedures.

There are several Packet BBS usable from Evansville via K4DPP including WD9EYB-1 in Terre Haute and WA8EJH-2 in Bloomington Indiana.

Recently joining the packet ranks thanks to Santa Claus were KA9KRE, KB9NR, KA9LQM, K9HCE, WD9GCM to name a few. Packet Radio is alive and growing in the Tri-State.



## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO

Boy have I been hoodwinked! I thought than when I became President that I would only have one column to write. I promptly dashed it off and handed it to LQM and headed for the milk and cookies.

I heard him bellowing behind me about the other one. Other one what I wondered? Then with more than a little vocal feedback he stated THE column Feedback. Although I tried to talk him out of it I am here for another year. The thought of LQM having to come up with another page all on his own sent him right to the Christmas Tree.

Yes we still have our tree up and it is the 3rd of January as I write this. We keep the new year blues away by keeping up our Christmas cheer till Valentines Day or so. Well, maybe I am exaggerating, but we do keep it up quite awhile.

We decorate our tree with a lot of candy canes. In times of stress during the season LQM heads for the tree to cop a candy cane or two. I can directly see how stressed he is by counting the disappearing candy.

Following is a stress chart in case a similar situation exists in your home:

- 1-2 canes - probably just hungry
- 2-4 canes - time to clean the mouse cage
- 4-6 canes - preparing for a visit of in-laws
- 6-8 canes - wife with skillet over head asking for cleaning help for in-law visit
- 8-10 canes - watching wife come home and go through the door ten times with arms loaded with packages after a LITTLE Christmas shopping
- over 10 - parrot landing in Christmas Tree next to 100 year old glass ornament
- over 15 - wife wanting to know when antenna tower will get its Christmas lights
- over 20 - pricing lights for tower

Well I think that all gives you an idea of how the candy canes leave my tree. After threatening LQM with a blank page in Sparks I came downstairs the next morning to see half of the tree uncandied. Being the time of year of goodwill toward men I told him that I would do both. I just hate to see a grown man with red drool and peppermint fatigue don't you?!

My other column is called ....FROM THE WHITE HOUSE (the little one on washington avenue). My rose garden consists of one wild bush in the backyard. My security staff is headed by an S. Snake. I have a oval space in my living room that is free of Ham Radio Junk and I have just named LQM head of my cleaning staff. Oh oh, I've got to go, I hear the candy canes on the tree being rattled!

73 Carolyn

P.S. Does anyone know of a good attorney who specializes in personal injuries connected with cheap Safety Belts given by lazy husbands?

## SILENT KEYS

Sincere condolences to George Utley, N9FMO on the recent passing of his father George Utley, Sr. A memorial contribution was made to the Hadi 100M club.

Sincere condolences to John Dilges, K9GKA, on the passing of his mother. A memorial contribution was made in her memory.

## TARS MEMBERSHIP

Look at the mailing label on this issue of Sparks. If you see 1985 in the upper right hand corner of your label Charlie has not received your 1986 TARS Dues. Send now to avoid missing any issues of Sparks.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 TARS DUES \*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Make Check Payable to TARS \*  
 \* and Mail to the Treasurer \*  
 \* Charlie Sartore, N9DYE \*  
 \* 709 East Virginia Street \*  
 \* Evansville, IN 47711 \*  
 \* You can also renew your \*  
 \* ARRL membership thru \*  
 \* TARS. We get to keep \*  
 \* \$2.00 for our clubs \*  
 \* Treasury. Ask Charlie if \*  
 \* interested. \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*  
 \* DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPARK PAY DUES NOW \*  
 \* Dues Must be Paid by the end of February \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Renew Your Membership \*  
 \* Club Dues .....\$ 8.00 \*  
 \* Repeater Dues... 12.00 \*  
 \* ----- \*  
 \* Total \$20.00 \*  
 \* Senior Citizens \*  
 \* (over 65) 8.00 \*  
 \* Students club dues \*  
 \* only 4.00 \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*





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**Tri-State Amateur Radio Society**  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

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Robert Henn, KA9TML  
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Evansville  
47715

1986  
W9AIN

IN

If you have any questions or articles for SPARKS contact the Editor.

## For Your Special Valentine



February 14 is a day we traditionally give friends and loved ones a piece of our heart. Consider a really special valentine this year for a stranger. Give a gift that's personal and precious - your blood.

The faces of those that need your gift are many - a child facing surgery for a heart defect - a teenager caught in twisted wreckage of a car - a farmer that has lost a limb to a piece of machinery; all need your special gift to survive.

In recent weeks the American Red Cross has faced critical blood shortages. They supply the blood needs of all the Evansville hospitals and much more. Although the immediate crisis is past the need is always present.

If you have never donated blood, or if it has been quite awhile, won't you consider giving. If you are between the ages of 17 and 66, in good general health, weigh at least 110 lbs, have had no colds or significant illnesses in the past week and have never had hepatitis you can give.

Your donation can be given at the Red Cross at Diamond and Heidelberg on Tuesdays 11 AM to 4 PM, Wednesdays 3 PM to 7 PM, Thursdays 2 PM to 7 PM and Saturdays 9 AM till Noon. If you have any questions about donating call the Red Cross at 422-3215.

Make this Valentine's Day special with your gift; it is one we might all need to receive someday.

## February Meeting

The February TARS meeting will be at the Indiana State Police Post at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to this interesting meeting.

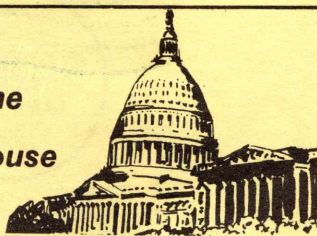
The program will be presented by KA9LQM on computers and amateur radio. It will include an overview of the past, present trends and future possibilities of computers in the ham shack. Topics covered will include RTTY, Packet and Data Base Management. Also those interested in the TARS computer class later in the year may sign up at this time.

Following the program there will be a tour of the ISP facilities; for those who were unable to make the ARES meeting last month the tour is very interesting.

Those who do not have their dues paid up beware of the tour into the holding cell area; Charlie just might be able to find a key to the cell doors.



## From the Whitehouse



the little one on Washington Avenue

## Feedback de KA9LMO

The Auction held last month was great! I've never seen so much junk, uh treasure, under one roof. Some members hauled home fine bargains. Thanks again to Little Ed K9HVI for being such a terrific auctioneer. I wonder if WB9NQD is still ringing the bell!

We have filled the remaining board seat and I would like to welcome Bob Henn KA9TML aboard.

We had a crew out to check the repeater recently and I do think it has helped according to the group that is on most of the day. We are still checking some things out and will keep you informed of future developments.

The February meeting will be held at the State Police Post. I'll let LQM go into more detail in his column about the program. After it we will take a tour of the Post facility. At a recent ARES meeting Don Jackson took us through and it was a fascinating look behind the scenes. It is more than worth the drive up 41 to take a look so try to join us February 13.

Clear the calendar with your YL or XYL for the March meeting. Yes good friends it is once again time for the **\*\*BINGO\*\*** !

Charlie N9DYE, is hard at work on the Hamfest. If you have a few spare minutes give Charlie a yell and I'm sure he can find something of value for you to do.

May you and your valentine have a happy day on the 14th!

When you hear that adventure isn't available in your own backyard don't you believe it. One only pictures a trip into the bush to take place in Africa or South America. But my friends it is much closer to you than commonly thought.

We took such a trip recently as we mounted an expedition to repair the repeater. Now I realize that Orchard Road sounds quite peaceful but oh what lurks just beneath the surface.

Just after the finish of the February monsoons we made our way to the site. (Although LQM and I were not alone we were so busy with our adventures I'll relate just that portion of it to you.) We exited the Safari Escort and geared up. We took those necessities of the wild - the HT - the signal generator - and other such equipment.

After just a few steps we encountered our first wild beast encounter. LQM was a valiant companion as he drove off the vicious Mockingbird with the rubber duckie from the HT. One should never go into the bush without a great white hunter.

We had barely regained our breath when the next crisis intervened. Our progress was slow due to the water logged terrain. We slipped and grappled with the unfriendly mire and then a shriek rent the air. I turned around and saw LQM sinking fast. Ask WA9IVE about the laws of physics concerning matter and mud - even without a formula at hand I could see the mud was winning over the matter.

Thinking quickly yours truly threw some coax over a limb and did some hauling up ( thank goodness I renewed by membership to the Pit Barbell Club and continued to work out). LQM was safe and we rejoined our party to continue the trek.

We finally reached the repeater shack and made ready to open up the treasure house. As the key turned I thought I heard something growling but I couldn't warn LQM in time and he had his second and by far more dangerous confrontation with the animals of the wild.

Some might snicker but there are few creatures more dangerous when cornered than the field mouse. LQM began flinging wet IC's at the creatures until it was safe for the rest of us to come near.

While the repair took place LQM and I stood guard and kept away marauding crows, ducks and blackbirds. As I stood there I had visions of a bestseller coming from the memoirs of these adventures. How does the title **OUT OF ORCHARD RD** grab you?

Knowing the dangerous spots quite well we made our way back to the Safari vehicle without incident. We were tired and dirty but we had tested ourselves against nature and had come out victors.

On the way home we spoke about continuing our adventures into the wilds of Southern Indiana; for after you have tasted the thrill of such a challenge you can not return to the common and humdrum. We decided to make a trip to any theater on Greenriver Rd on Friday (date night for every teenager in Evansville) and see what adventures await us!



## Treasurer's Report

### TREASURER REPORT FOR JANUARY 1986

Balance as of January 1, 1986		\$3120.35
<b>Income</b>		
Club Dues .....	576.00	
Auction .....	107.05	
ARRL .....	40.00	
Interest .....	15.01	
Total Income -----	\$738.06	\$3858.41
<b>Expenses</b>		
Sparks & Postage .....	59.04	
Refreshments.....	16.50	
Auction .....	54.00	
ARRL .....	36.00	
Memorials .....	25.00	
Total Expenses .....	\$ 190.54	\$3667.87
Balance as of January 31, 1986		\$3667.87

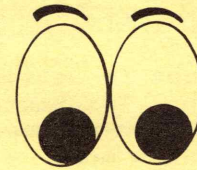
## Letters to the Editor

### N9CIA, MISSIONARY TO HAITI

You've probably heard Drex on the local repeaters as he visits the hospitals in Evansville and Owensboro. You may have run into him at a disaster scene, he's a Chaplain for the Indiana State Police. Until November he was the pastor for an Independent Christian Church in Richland, Indiana; but this summer he and his family begin work as full time missionaries to Haiti. Drex has been there nearly every year since the late 70's working with doctors, nurses, teachers ministering to the needs of the Haitian people. In Drex's area 350 kids pack themselves into the large one room American school to learn and to get one good meal a day. American missions are welcome as long as they build either a school or clinic.

Drex just got word they have finished the roof on the house his family will live in. He will have to replace the no-wax dirt floor with concrete when he arrives. His wife has two prerequisites, a refrigerator and water. Drex wants a 12 volt HF rig (AC power only 2 hours a day) that he can rely on. His glued together old SBE rig wouldn't make the trip. The Owensboro Club has raised over \$300.00 towards a used solid state rig and the Ham Station has offered Drex a good deal on one. Won't you please help by sending your tax deductible check payable to OARC/N9CIA to Mike Tooley, WB4NTT at 2222 Collins Drive Owensboro, Kentucky 42310. It might save lives. Drex will be the administrator for a clinic and his wife will teach health and nutrition to the women. \*\*\*\* PLEASE HELP \*\*\*\*

Mike Bruce, KA4BCM  
1611 Chapel Lane  
Owensboro, KY 42301



## Editor's Notebook

Spring sprung last week but Winter returned before I could get all my antenna work done. Oh Well, Carolyn's ankle wasn't quite up to tower climbing anyway.

This month we will get into computers at the State Police Post also a tour of the building.

Some of the grand prizes for the Hamfest are here and Charlie, N9DYE will be calling on you to help with the Hamfest soon. Major Prizes this year will be three, yes you heard right three Yaesu 2 Meter HT's, a Butternut 10 to 160 All Band Vertical and a 19 inch Color Television. We will again be selling main prize tickets in advance, more on that next month.

The program for the March meeting will be the annual B I N G O. Mark your calendars early for this fun night for all. There will be lots of surprises in store for those who come you might win the prize of a lifetime.

Welcome to Bob Henn our newest board member who will fill in for the vacancy created when W9GJ was elected Secretary.

If your Sparks label doesn't show 1986 on the first line your dues have not been paid as of this mailing date. All club dues are payable January 1st. so if you wish to remain a TARS member send your dues check now.

Charlie Sartore, N9DYE  
709 East Virginia Street  
Evansville, Indiana



## PACKET RACKET

Well Packet is alive and well in the Tri-State area. We can now connect with Indianapolis most of the time through Terre Haute and Louisville is a reality using the Owensboro digipeater.

However; some problems are becoming evident. First the area machines, (W9UUU in Terre Haute especially), are becoming overloaded with beacon traffic. The use of beacons is helpful to let other hams know you are on packet, but the same beacon traffic may keep you from connecting or remaining connected long enough to have a QSO. Set your beacon to the maximum time limits of your TNC unless you are there to receive connect requests. Recently I have seen many stations try to connect to beacon stations yet couldn't raise anyone at the station transmitting beacons. Also the beacons digipeater through several machines may disrupt traffic at another city. This is happening in Terre Haute at present they are the only link from Southern Indiana and Illinois so their machine handles a large volume of traffic.

If you are wanting to connect with someone locally; try direct first in many cases it works much faster and better than going through a digipeater. There is a new group in Indiana for all Packet Radio Users. (IDEA) Indiana Digital Experimenters Association is publishing a newsletter which is very helpful. Tell them you heard about IDEA in Sparks and they will send you a free sample issue.

IDEA Newsletter  
% Bob Foster  
10126 Catalina Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46236

## Reading the Mail de KA9EIV

### VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Examiner Program in our club is entering it's second year. It's time to review the original rules and list the changes.

The VE team consists of three accredited Volunteer Examiners who administer the 5, 13 and 20 WPM code tests and the Novice, Tech/General, Advanced and Extra Class written tests.

Code test transmissions are played from an audio tape prepared by ARRL/VEC with message contents similar in format to an Amateur Radio QSO. The test is a "fill in the blank" style with 7 out of 10 answers correct or one continuous minute of perfect copy. The written element exams are four-choice multiple answer tests with a passing grade of 74%.

To apply for the test send a completed form 610 (new form dated June 1984 or later), a check for \$4.25 (new amount) payable to ARRL/VEC and a photocopy of present license. At some test sessions walk-ins will be taken in a limited number, however advance registration is encouraged. There is no waiting period between tests, however if an applicant fails a written test he MAY NOT take the test over at that same session. An applicant must bring to the test session his original copy of current license plus two other forms of identification.

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society will hold their next test session May 18 at 8:45 AM at Bauer's Grove, 14435 Darmstadt Road, this year's Hamfest site. Contact person will be KA9EIV, Blanche M. Elpers, 840 Herndon Drive Evansville, Indiana 47711.

Examiners will be chosen from a panel consisting of Extra Class accredited examiners W9GJ, W9CM, N4XI, AK9G, W9MR, AE9Z, K9GKR, W9FHA, N9DEO, and N9CUK. Assisting Advanced Class accredited examiners are WB9FNN, KD9JB, KA9EIV, N9DYE, WB9VSQ and WD9HUK.

Anyone holding an Extra Class or Advanced Class license that would like to become a Volunteer Examiner please contact me for an application form. Since the FCC no longer gives tests, the VE Program is the only way to upgrade. However, all test questions are taken from a pool of 500 compiled by the FCC. The tests are made up by the VEC, which in our program is ARRL.

KA9EIV

## REPEATER UPDATE

The intermittent problems of the 147.15/75 repeater are being worked on at present. The problem has been isolated to the exciter and small pre-amp which powers the repeater's main power amplifier. The pre-amp is very sensitive to temperature and the output varies from a half watt to fifteen watts depending upon temperature. The exciter is also temperature sensitive. Please bear with us, a replacement transmitter which will not need the pre-amp will be tested as soon as crystals arrive. If this solves the problem the transmitter section of the repeater may be changed in the future. Please report any difficulties with the repeater system to KA9LQM in order that we may maintain a record of the problem and temperature conditions at that time.





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EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXVIII

No. III

March 1986



### OFFICERS:

President Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Vice Pres. John Lenn, WA9IVE  
Secretary Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Robert Henn, KA9TML  
Cliff McGuyer, W9CM  
George Utley, N9FMO  
Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



*Hoppy Easter*



from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

0044  
Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

1986  
W9AIN

IN

## PACKET RACKET

We will be having a local packet users meeting in the next few days; watch for a beacon announcing the date. The meeting will be held at Dick Clark's Ice Cream Shop in Princeton, IN. It looks like the date will be the 10th or 18th of March at 7:00 P.M.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss your feelings on several issues which will be addressed at the March 23rd. IDEA meeting at Purdue University. A few of us are planning to attend and would like to get everyone who is on packet locally involved in this meeting in order that we can represent the local packet users effectively. If we do not have an input into the IDEA meeting we can not gripe about anything which they decide. Of course we are not bound by their decisions; however the issue of Local Area Networks, Beacon Traffic overloading the digipeaters, Gateway and Bulletin Board frequencies must be coordinated on a statewide basis.

## HAMFEST MAY 18

Well Spring has sprung and it again time to start talking about the TARS HAMFEST. This year we will be having the Hamfest on Sunday May 18th and it will be in a New and Improved Location.

Bauer's Grove is located just one half mile North of Darmstadt (just 4 miles from the 4-H Center) and will be the site of this years Hamfest. The building has just recently been remodeled and is located on a large site with good parking, easy access from Evansville and best of all tree shaded outdoor flea market and a large air-conditioned indoor area.

We will be having several forums, VE Testing on site, BINGO for the ladies and a few special events during the day. This years Hamfest Chairman is Charlie Sartore, N9DYE and you can contact him at 709 E. Virginia Street Evansville, IN 47711 for advance table reservations. Get your table reservations in early to get the location of your choice.

The Grand Prizes for this year will include Three, yes you heard right, (3) Yaesu FT-209RH Handhelds. These are state of the art handhelds with a battery saving feature which is just wonderful, wonderful. No Lawrence Welk is not going to be at the Hamfest; however in addition to the radios you need an antenna. So we will be having a 10 to 160 Meter Butternut HF6V Vertical as another one of the Grand Prizes. No Virginia it won't work with the Yaesu Handheld, but you wouldn't be lucky enough to win two Grand Prizes anyway. And behind door number three will be a 19" Color Television for those of you who are not interested in Ham Radio, guess there must be someone at the Hamfest who isn't interested in Ham Radio; So that rounds out the list of Grand Prizes for this years Hamfest. Remember the Date is May 18th. at Bauers Grove. See You There.



## On the Grapevine

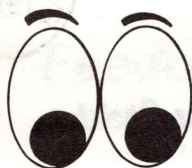
Congratulations are in order to Steve Sinkhorn, KD9ER on his upgrade to Extra at the Vincennes VE test last Saturday.

Congratulations to Steve Knight (EX KA9RRQ) on his upgrade; however I am not sure if congratulations or condolences are in order for his New Call, KD9UO. He has been heard using the phonics Kilowatt Delta Niner Ugly Operator.

George WA9OCO is on the mend and back home from his recent hospital stay; however his XYL WB9YMW also took a tumble and is in a cast for a broken arm.

You've all heard of UFO's well we have an UO in Evansville, That's an Unexplained Occurrence for you who are still wondering. Just days after Blanche KA9EIV put up a tower and big beam her neighbors sold their house and left Evansville; wonder what she is feeding into her coax.

Wear something green to the March Bingo and you can play the special game of the night. The Prez will not say what the prize is; you have to come to the meeting to find out. Could it be like LQM's prize of shredded money?



## Editor's Notebook

de KA9LQM

Hal WB9FNN is in the process of teaching a Novice class to a group of Scouts at Scott School on wednesdays. If anyone has old transmitters or receivers they would like to donate to the Scouts a permanent station would be set up for the boys to use as a club station.

While on the subject anyone want to be an Elmer to one of the Scouts or another new novice in our area give me a call.

John WA9IVE will also be teaching a class to an eastside Scout group starting sometime in March; if you would like to help with any of these worthwhile projects let the guys know. At one time the local high schools had radio clubs and school stations. Come on guys let's get the kids interested in electronics and Ham Radio Again. Dan N9APA got started in Ham Radio while a student of Johns many years ago. Look back when and how did you get interested in Ham Radio. Where have all the Elmers gone? Did they die out with the Elm Trees?



The weather is changing faster than my Easter Flowers can understand guess that is a sign of Spring and with Spring comes HAMFEST's.

This year the Annual T.A.R.S. HAMFEST will be on Sunday May 18, 1986. For more information see the article on the front page.

As a Special Service Club TARS can now appoint a local awards manager to handle ARRL VHF/UHF awards and also the HF Worked All States and Five Band Worked All States awards from the ARRL. The advantage of having a local manager is much faster turn around for those qualifying for the awards. If anyone is interested in becoming the awards manager for TARS give the Prez at call.

Repeater Update: The crystal for the new transmitter should be installed by the time you receive this issue of Sparks. Please give me a call if you experience any difficulties after this change has been made. At present the repeater is not working all of the time. If the repeater is down on Wednesday the net will be moved to the 146.79/19 machine until the problems with the 147.15/75 are resolved.

If you are a wearin' of the green during the March BINGO you will be eligible for a special bingo game.

*****	TARS	DUES	*****
* Renew Your Membership		* Make Check Payable to TARS	*
		* and Mail to the Treasurer	*
* Club Dues .....\$ 8.00		* Charlie Sartore, N90YE	*
* Repeater Dues... 12.00		* 709 East Virginia Street	*
		* Evansville, IN 47711	*
* Total \$20.00			*
* Senior Citizens		* You can also renew your	*
* (Over 65) 8.00		* ARRL membership thru	*
* Students club dues		* TARS. We get to keep	*
* only 4.00		* \$2.00 for our clubs	*
		* Treasury. Ask Charlie if	*
		* interested.	*
			*
* DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPARK PAY DUES NOW			*
* Dues Must be Paid by the end of February			*
*****			

73 KA9LQM



#### January Meeting Board of Directors

The first 1986 Board of Directors meeting of Tri-State Amateur Radio Society convened at 7:00 PM CST on January 16, 1986. Mort Silverman, newly elected Secretary, submitted his resignation as a Board member. This action leaves a vacancy on the Board which it is hoped will be filled before the next Board meeting.

Charles Sartore distributed copies of the Treasurer's report which showed a balance as of December 31, 1985 of \$3120.35 on hand. After discussion the report was accepted by the Board.

Discussion was carried on regarding the possibility of making available to members a T-Shirt (Sport Shirt Type) with TARS logo. Pricing is to be obtained from Baker and Company who furnished the TARS jackets.

The Board appropriated the sum of 100.00 to be used to purchase prizes for the Bingo March meeting.

Prizes for the TARS hamfest were decided on to be three 2 Meter Hand Held, one HF6V All Band Vertical Antenna and one 13" to 19" Color TV to cost approximately \$200.00. Treasurer Sartore was instructed by the Board to provide for depreciation of TARS assets in the amount of 20%. On motion the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM CST.

#### February Meeting Board of Directors

President Carolyn Anderson called the February 1986 Board of Directors meeting to order at 7:00 PM, February 20th. Board members present were Vice Pres. John Lenn, Treas. Charlie Sartore, Sec. Mort Silverman, Directors George Utley, Jim Shoptaugh, Cliff McGuyer, Charlie Finke, and Mike Anderson.

Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed after which the Treasurers report was presented and accepted.

The President briefly discussed the non-smoking rule of the Red Cross pointing out that TARS was permitting membership to violate the rule at monthly club meetings. The Board decided that this rule should be observed and that the President should bring it to the attention of the members at each meeting.

The subject of forthcoming Hamfest arrangements was reviewed and rather extensive discussion centered about how entry and prize tickets should be handled due to the layout of entry to the area grounds and location of the building. It was decided that as many Board members as could; should meet at the site on the coming Thursday to try to solve this problem, and for an inspection of the facilities.

The possibility of offering T-Shirt with TARS logo at an estimated cost of \$10.00 was discussed. The President outlined what information she had been able to obtain which indicated that shirts could be obtained locally with Siegels attaching the logo and the T-Shirts being supplied by Baker & Son. Further investigation of possible other sources, etc. is to be done.

Clifford McGuyer moved that Sparks be expanded to two full pages for a period of two consecutive month at the editors option after which time the Board will assess the continuation advisability. This motion was seconded by John Lenn and passed on voice vote.

The Board then reviewed various changes and modifications needed in the Club Constitution and By Laws. Changes and revisions are to be read at two successive Club membership meetings, Published in Sparks and then voted on in compliance with the By-Laws.

Mike Anderson advised that if the issues of Sparks are to be mailed via third class mail the deadline for Sparks must be moved up to the 25th of each month.

On motion, Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Mort Silverman, Secretary

### Letters to the Editor

\* \* \* STOLEN \* \* \*

Ft. Wayne, Indiana on Sat.  
Feb 1, 1986 Collins KWM-380  
Serial No. 1228 and touch  
tone controler. This unit  
is valued in excess of  
\$4000. I am posting a  
\$500.00 Reward for the  
return of this radio and or  
the arrest of the person or  
persons responsible for the  
theft of it. Anyone having  
any information concerning

this radio please call John  
Goller, K9UWA 1-(219)-637-  
6426 or Notify the Allen  
County Police Dept. Anyone  
receiving this notice may  
copy or reprint any or all  
of this statement.

Respectfully,

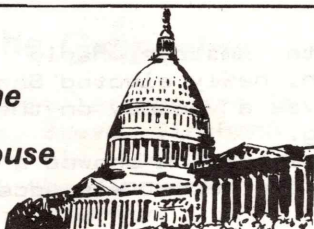
s/ John C. Goller, K9UWA

The March meeting is  
back at the Red Cross and  
it is Bingo time! We  
usually have a big group at  
this meeting so everyone be  
careful as you park. Do  
not block any Red Cross  
access. If the lot next to  
the building fills up  
parking is available at the  
bank across the street and  
a lot about a block away.

May the Luck  
O' the Irish be with you!



## From the Whitehouse



the little one on Washington Avenue

Has this been a strange winter or what! Well at least the elements held their fury in check so that we could have a very good meeting at the State Police post. LQM brought us up to date on computers and the tour after was most interesting.

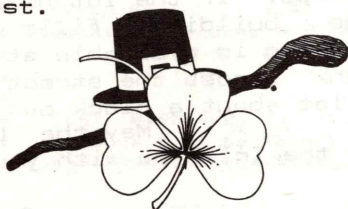
It was great to talk to Paul K8GIK when he made a trip from Michigan back to the neighborhood. Maybe we can see him if he makes it down for the hamfest.

And that leads me into the \*\*\*\* H A M F E S T \*\*\*\* that was sneaky wasn't it? Charlie N9DYE is the Hamfest Chairman and I know he is in need of a lot of help.

Two things will be very important to the success of this years hamfest. They are publicity & advance ticket sales. Although we have a great facility at a great price at Bauer's Grove we do not have control of the kitchen this year. So we all need to be great salesmen with our advance tickets so our profits remain high.

Also be sure to talk up the Hamfest so our public is aware of the change of location this year.

If any one has contacts at the newspaper this would be a great time to get some free publicity. So keep all this in mind as you look forward to the May HamFest.



## Feedback de KA9LMO

Just when I thought that LQM couldn't find anything new to become addicted to Packet Radio came into our lives. As usual he had problems putting it together. He should remember the famous quote THOSE WHO DO NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT. Yes, this is exactly what happened when he brought home his first computer. All of the cords and wires made a 1000 piece jig-saw puzzle look like a snap. But with some hairpulling he got it put together. I was worried for him this time though, he lacks the basic resource necessary for hair pulling!

He fiddled a couple of hours and then I heard the sound! When you are listening to the packet transmission you hear a most strange noise. Brrruttt - comes very close if you imagine it in a shrill, fast tone. The sound was to mean insanity shortly for the residents of 2129 Washington Ave.

Now I thought I had grown used to most of LQM's crazy sounds. When we first married it was horrible static from a CB set. Then the clanking of the old teletype he found at a garage sale. The first computer printer that came equipped with hearing protectors was a gem too. Next came the age of the beeping watches, ever been at a movie theater at eight o'clock as everyone's electronic watch goes off on the hour. This of course takes five minutes due to the marvel of modern synchronization. But none of these poses the irritation of the packet brrruttt.

One day he inadvertently left it on near the parrots. When we got back home their eyes had all glazed over and brrruttt was all they could say. My cockatiel who likes to whistle The Bridge Over The River Kwai march couldn't whistle more than a few notes before he interjected a brrruttt. He was so stressed by the end of the day I had to give him a birdie valium.

I begged LQM to turn off the audio. I knew I was in trouble when he answered "Look Carolyn, it brrruttt is necessary for it to brrruttt be on so I can monitor brrruttt the activity". Well I knew at that precise moment he needed help.

I've always believed in subliminal education so I made a tape for LQM with aversion techniques in mind. As soon as he drifted off to sleep I played the continuous loop tape for him with the sound of brrruttt followed by some of his favorite things.

For example:

- brrruttt - time to wash the dishes
- brrruttt - 900 cal diets are good for you
- brrruttt - explain to your wife how you forgot her birthday
- brrruttt - go to dentist, doctor, accountant, lawyer
- brrruttt - pick up and pack everything in your house you haven't used in ten years and pitch it
- brrruttt - go to a flea market and purchase nothing
- brrruttt - listen to nothing but wife's heavy metal rock music

These are just a few of the associations that caused him to toss and turn for five nights in a row. Then suddenly he turned off the packet monitor and mumbled something about a doctor at a flea market on a diet who had to listen to rock music all the time. Silence is golden, the birds are calm, and all is brrruttt with the world.





# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXVIII

No. IV

April 1986



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Jim Shopbaugh, KA9KRE

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



T.A.R.S. regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelberg Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time.  
The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net

**First Class Mail**

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

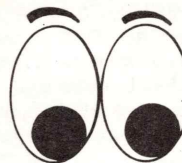
## HAMFEST MAY 18

### TARS 20 Meter Repeater Goes to Packet Mode April 1, 1986

In recent weeks, there have been several discussions on the repeater concerning a new 20 Meter Repeater. The idea was very promising but due to financial considerations, it was dropped. A Swedish firm quoted a price off \$20,000 on the four foot diameter 16 foot long cavities. As a result, an alternate plan was adopted and barring any unforeseen difficulties it should be in operation by this printing. Using the packet mode we can operate Simplex and eliminate the problem of duplexers.

The input frequency of 145.01 MHz or 145.03 MHz will be translated to 14.000 MHz or 14.100 MHz. The receiver for 145.01 will be co-located with the primary 14 MHz transmitter at W9FHA's QTH. The Christmas trees should hide all of the antenna system quite well. The homebrew VXO controlled, two watt transmitter (described in the 1979 Handbook) feeds a 3 element Telrex beam. The antenna has a fixed azimuth of 79.6 degrees; this signal is then transmitted to KA9LQM's, converted to microwave and reflected by a large AMAX Earth Moving Device (AEMD) to Francisco, Indiana (WB9NQD QTH). The signal must be phased properly so that it will reinforce the signal generated by a small QRP gunplexer at that location. The QRP transmitter's only function is to provide sufficient energy to generate a coordinating synchronous waveform on the 368.6 foot rhombic at that location with the two active antennas at fixed locations, the position of the AEMD is critical and will require close monitoring and positioning. Unlike heretofore antenna systems, this one will set new standards for increased gain. The antenna gain for each antenna is added together. System gain is equal to the power of the transmitter raised to the power of the sum of antennas gain. (Editors Note I didn't know that). The 3 element beam has a gain of 9.1 db and the

Continued on Page Three



Editor's Notebook

de KA9LQM

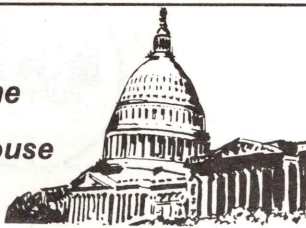
April Program will be presented by A1, W9UMH and will consist of an audio visual presentation on the Freedom Festival.

With storm season arriving try to monitor the local repeater during the day. With many of us working there are periods when not enough eyes and ears are on the air. During our last severe weather net several areas were without coverage.

SIDE (Southern Indiana Digital Experimenters) and IDEA (Indiana Digital Experimenters Association) are in the process of printing a local handbook for packet users. Contact me for more information on either IDEA or SIDE membership. IDEA is \$12.00 per year and SIDE is FREE.



## From the Whitehouse



the little one on Washington Avenue

Hi group I sure hope the Easter Bunny was good to you and yours. Save some of that chocolate, maybe you can trade it at the TARS Hamfest May 18.

The Hamfest this year is being held at Bauer's Grove in Darmstadt, IN which is just a hop, skip or a jump from our previous site.

Charlie Satore, N9DYE is the Hamfest Chairman. If you have questions or would like to reserve a table contact him anytime.

If you haven't been out to Bauer's Grove in a while you will be pleasantly surprised. The owners have been very busy this winter constructing a beautiful new building that reminds one of a giant chalet. This building will house the rental tables and the food concession.

They have a beautiful wooded grove that we plan to use for the flea market and outdoor dining area.

Camping will also be available and Jim KA9KRE is handling all of those details, so do contact him if you are interested.

VE testing will be done on site during the Hamfest so whip that key out and start practicing for your upgrade. Contact Blanche KA9EIV for more information.

We have some great prizes this year. They include 3 Yaesu FT 209H hand helds, 1 Butternut All Band 10 - 160 meter Antenne and a 19 inch color TV.

Don't forget all the hourly prizes as well and the BINGO for the ladies.

There will be more going on but my column is almost out of room so I'll end

## Feedback de KA9LMO

This is another column devoted to YL's and XYL's, for those ladies new to Ham Radio those little letters mean you, the Ham Radio widow. If it is too late for you to do something about your man's addiction at least you need to know what's in store for your future.

The spring fever the ham radio addict goes through is Hamfest fever. This 6 month disease starts in Dayton, Ohio in late April and rapidly spreads to other cities all over the country. Severe symptoms include a very thin wallet and bald tires on your vehicle. You will also see your garage or basement suddenly full of junk. Your man will invite over other addicts and he'll gloat as he displays the spoils of his conquests.

Another thing to watch out for in your future is the unusual way you'll celebrate special occasions. Recently my husband reached his 39th birthday for the first time, I expect we'll celebrate that one for 5 or 6 years. Anyway, as you say goodbye to your youth you envision a gala meal, concert, party or otherwise fun evening. Read on as I tell you about our SPECIAL evening.

The repeater has been terminally sick recently. For novices reading this the repeater is a gizmo Amateur Radio operators turn to as the Moslem does toward Mecca. The night of March 17th emergency surgery was performed on the repeater. I accompanied the birthday boy out to Orchard Road and we awaited the surgeon who was bringing the donor organ transmitter.

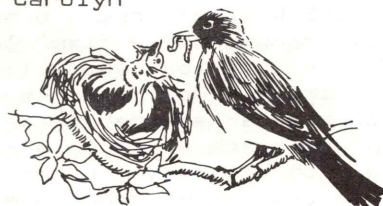
We were uncertain to arrival of the above so we skipped supper and went right to the site after work. As we sat in the dark our stomachs were doing a mean rumbling version of Happy Birthday. My hand dropped down between the seats and some cellophane rustled. Eureka, we had found some stale pretzels!

LQM and I began to divy up our find. He almost got a birthday spanking when he suggested he should get 39 out of the 41 pretzels. You don't live this many years without achieving some wisdom or learn how to read your mate's mood as she is starving, so we divided our repast evenly and enjoyed it thoroughly.

The surgeon arrived and we treked to the repeater and began the operation. We stood out there 2 hours on a less than balmy night. Later I had to dig out the medical encyclopedia and find out about home remedies for St. Patrick's Day frostbite. Finally at 9:30 PM we were finished. We ended up at Sir Beef for our birthday dinner. It was very special to put the birthday candle on the cheesecake as the employees vacuumed around us.

Well I could go on but I find that I am choked up with emotion remembering that special night. Then again it might be LQM's hands around my throat as he reads this over my shoulder. But fear not YL's and XYL's I will find a way to return to you with more feedback!

73 Carolyn





## Southern Indiana Digital Experimenters Meeting

The premier meeting of the Southern Indiana Digital Experimenters was held on March 19, to discuss local Packet Radio problems and operating procedures. The following were in attendance:

WB9PRN, Ed Metzger - ARRL Central Division Director  
 W4OYI, George Wilson - ARRL Great Lakes Division Director  
 KA9LMO, Carolyn Anderson - T.A.R.S. President  
 KA9LQM, Mike Anderson - T.A.R.S. Board & Newsletter Editor  
 WD9HUN, Geneva Marsh  
 W9NJE, Jim Marsh  
 WB9PXX, Tom Richmond  
 N9DOR, Vance Foster  
 KB9NR, Lloyd Wienert - ORS  
 WB9WMB, Dennis Sivert  
 KD9ER, Stephen Sinkhorn - Pike County ARC President - ORS

The group was enlightened by distinguished guests Ed Metzger and George Wilson concerning ARRL's thrust into making Packet Radio a viable and valuable communication medium in the area of Public Service, and Emergency Communication. The current rulings and attitudes of the FCC toward Packet Radio were also discussed. We extend our gratitude to these gentlemen for their contribution and interest.

The group reached a decision to create a handbook to be distributed to all local TNC's sold through the Ham Station, containing operating parameters and procedures established for our area. This is to help newcomers avoid the common problems and mistakes of operating a Packet Station, and keep the local community operating uniformly, and in a well informed manner. Door prizes of ARRL Handbook and an ARRL Antenna Manual, donated by Mr. Metzger, were awarded to WB9PXX and WB9WMB respectively.

The group also decided to meet on a quarterly basis, with the next meeting set to be held on June 3. Contact any member listed above for further information.

Stephen Sinkhorn, KD9ER

ARES activity report: Emergency WX net during severe thunderstorm watch from 1839Z to 2150Z March 10, 1986. Twenty one amateurs taking part, using the following repeaters:

146.19/79 (W9OG), 146.34/94 (AI9H), 146.07/67 (WR9AEB),  
 147.81/21 (K4HY), 146.01/61 (WA4PVV), 146.31/91 (WB9RCV),  
 146.16/76 (W9UNI), 144.81/5.41 (K9RFFW), 144.85/145.45  
 (WA9FGT). WA9IVE operated from National WWX Service, K4HY relay from Kentucky with KA9EIV base station net control.

T.A.R.S. ANNUAL HAMFEST  
 MAY 18, 1986  
 Bauers Grove in Darmstadt  
 See Hamfest Flyer for Details

## Packet Repeater

Continued from Page One

microwave dish has 19 db gain. System gain is then equal to the transmitter power (2 Watts) Raised to the 28.1 power or 1851708.37 db gain over an isotopic radiator. This is a tremendous amount of power and the EPA has voiced concern on the effects it will have on wildlife in the area. We are hoping K8GIK can mediate this problem for us with the EPA.

The mode of operation was originally planned for SSB. Audio problems were enormous and this idea was abandoned. Conventional CW was tried with marginal success. A new scheme utilizing inverted Morse proved successful; however with packet all of the problems have been solved.

KA9LQM has written a program for the VIC-20 which allows you to use a Fortran Based ASCII RS-232 interface with any packet TNC. We are still working on a suitable 20 meter receiver for the system. The awesome amounts of R.F. Energy have created problems with the receiver front end. Your solutions to this problem are solicited.

This system is available for all club members to use. A small 2 Meter low power rig, such as the one described on page 437 of the April QST will do the job. The ability to talk anywhere on Earth using only a 9 volt battery as a power source is a significant technological break through. Hopefully we will interface to the WORLI BBS system in the near future. Send your ideas for this project to the Sparks Editor for publication.

73 KA9LQM



## STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

The State-wide tornado drill was carried out in Indiana on March 20. After the announcement from National Weather Service by N9c at 9:24 AM CST, the Tri-State emergency net was activated on the 147.15/75 (W90G) repeater. Net Control Station was KA9EIV, operating from the American Red Cross. There were 42 check-ins in the 49 minute period the net was open.

These included the counties of Wabash and Edwards in Illinois, Henderson in Kentucky and Posey, Gibson, Warrick, Knox, Spencer, Dubois and Vanderburgh counties in Indiana. These stations operated on one or more of the following: Commercial power, battery powered hand-held and mobile power. This was a very good response.

WA9HGA operated the new Ten-Tec Corsair II from the Red Cross, WA9IVE operated from Civil Defense and WB9WMB operated at the Indiana State Police post. Messages were sent to Red Cross, Civil Defense and Salvation Army in Indianapolis. On behalf of KA9KRE, District Emergency Coordinator I wish to thank all who participated. As was the purpose of the drill, it showed the areas where we need to make improvements.

KA9EIV

The following list includes Tri-State known Hamfests for 1986. All are in Indiana unless otherwise indicated.

Apr 6 Ft. Campbell KY  
Apr 25-27 Dayton OH

May 18 Wabash  
18 TARS, Evansville

Jun 1 Terre Haute  
8 Muncie  
15 Lake County

Jul 12 & 13 Indiana State Convention, Indy Hamfest

## Silent Keys

Sincerest condolences to W9MLL, Fred Waller of Mt. Vernon, IN on the passing of his wife Helen on March 16. Fred who operated a Radio and TV shop in Mt. Vernon is well known to the older Hams of the area.

=====

Noel B. Burroughs, WD9HUR, 9000 Old Highway 62, Mt. Vernon, IN passed away February 18 after suffering his second heart attack in two months. Noel who was a regular check-in on the Wednesday evening nets, was a regular attendant at the monthly meetings, annual picnic and had attended the Christmas Party in December. Noel was a member of TARS, ARES, RACES and INCERT, also the AWA and ARRL.

=====

We wish also to express our sympathy to Linda Eberhard, KA9SJJ, on the death of her Father, Edward N. Eberhard.

=====

We extend condolences to Larry Forster W9ENZ on the death of his mother Lena M. Forster.

Aug 3 \* Angola  
10 Marion  
17 Lafayette  
24 \* Argos  
31 \* Bloomington

Oct 12 \* Bedford

Nov 9 Fort Wayne

Dates with asterisks (\*) have not been confirmed.

Indiana Section ARRL Letter QST and Other Newsletters

## V E TESTING DATES

The following are area Volunteer Examiner testing opportunities in the coming months. For more information check into the local nets of the clubs involved in these tests.

Apr 19 Mt. Carmel, IL

May 18 TARS Evansville, IN

July 19 OARC Owensboro, KY

FCC exams by Volunteer Examiners on May 18th at the TARS Hamfest site, Bauer's Grove 14435 Darmstadt Road. Testing to begin at 9:00 O'clock. Please have hour 610 form, check to ARRL/VEC in the amount of \$4.25 and a copy of your present license mailed to:

424-9182

Blanche M. Elpers, KA9EIV  
840 Herndon Drive  
Evansville, IN 47711

by May 1st. A limited number of walk-ins can be handled if they show up by 8:30 AM for necessary paperwork.

## REPEATER UPDATE

The 147.75/15 repeater has underwent a major renovation. The transmitter section has been replaced with a commercial grade transmitter and power levels have been increased to approximately 70 watts. This should solve some of the problems we have experienced recently. The power supply has also been repaired and the repeater is off of emergency battery power. A big thanks goes to Dick Thomas, WB9WDH for the many hours of work at the repeater site. Also thanks to WB9NQD for repairing the power supply. If you experience any problems with the machine please call me at 476-5572 and leave a message concerning the problem with my answering service.

73 KA9LQM



(E)



# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA



May 1986 Volume XXXVIII No. V

### OFFICERS:

President Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
 Vice Pres. John Lenn, WA9IVE  
 Secretary Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
 Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
 Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
 Robert Henn, KA9TML  
 Cliff McGuyer, W9CM  
 George Utley, N9FMO  
 Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
 Day 424-2306  
 Night 476-5572



T.A.R.S. regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelberg Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time. The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net.

**First Class Mail**

from:

Mike Anderson  
 Post Office Box 3284  
 Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

## HAMFEST

This years hamfest will be in a new location. Bauer's Grove Bavarian Alphaus located just 1/2 mile North of Darmstadt Shopping Center. Darmstadt is just a 3/4 mile from the old hamfest site which was the Vanderburgh County 4-H Center. Just follow the route on the enclosed map and you will have no problem finding the Hamfest. Talk-in will be on the 147.75/15 Repeater.

Charlie Sartore, N9DYE the hamfest chairman has several forums; this years guests will include:

Bruce Woodward, W9UMH will conduct the ARRL Traffic forum

Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE, District Emergency Coordinator will present the ARES forum

National Weather Service will have a very interesting program for area weather spotters and may include information on the future developments in next generation radar.

Al, W9UMS will have a MARS program for all of you who have heard of MARS and would like to find more information and possibly join the MARS Gang.

In additon to the forums there will be FREE BINGO for the ladies; so come on out guys and bring the YL or XYL for a day of fun. Bauers Grove has a beautiful area inside for the Hamfest and the outdoor flea market will be in a shady area with lots of trees. The harmonics will have lots of room to play outside and the grove is away from heavy traffic.

## HAMFEST SUNDAY MAY 18, 1986 Bauers Grove Darmstadt

\* Food

\* Fun

\* Bingo

\* Forums Presented by  
 National Weather Service  
 MARS  
 ARES  
 ARRL

\* VEC TESTING

\* SIGECO Hot Show





# TARS

39th Annual

# HAMFEST

**SUNDAY MAY 18, 1986**

6:30 AM c.d.t. till ??

**NEW LOCATION**  
**BAUER'S GROVE**  
**Darmstadt, Ind.**

**GRAND PRIZES**  
3 YAESU FT-209 HT  
BUTTERNUT VERTICAL  
(160-10mtr)  
19" COLOR TV  
DRAWING AT 3:00 PM

**FORUMS**  
M.A.R.S.  
ARRL  
SIGECO  
HOT SHOW

## FOOD

BREAKFAST 6:30 - 9:30  
LUNCH 11:00 - 1:00

**DOOR PRIZES**  
**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**

**TALK-IN**  
147.75/15 & 146.19/79

**PLAN NOW**  
**MAKE IT A**  
**FAMILY**  
**AFFAIR**

**FREE LADIES BINGO**  
**QLF CONTEST**  
**QSL CARD CONTEST**

**VE TEST SESSION 8:45 AM**

Send completed 610 form (dated June 1984 or later), a check for \$4.25 payable to ARRL/VEC and a photocopy of your present license. Limited number of walk-in's.  
Send To: Blanche Elpers, 840 Herndon Dr.  
Evansville, IN 47711

**TABLES AVAILABLE INSIDE FOR**  
**AIR-CONDITION COMFORT \$7.50 EACH**

**COMPLETELY SHADED FLEA MARKET AREA**  
**\$3.00 EACH TABLE**

**OVER-NITE**  
**CAMPING**

**ADMISSION \$ 3.00**  
Children 12 and under FREE

**SIGECO HOT SHOW**

GRAPHIC DEMONSTRATION OF THE DANGERS  
YOU COULD ENCOUNTER IF IMPROPER  
METHODS OF ANTENNA INSTALLATION ARE  
USED.

**THIS PROGRAM COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

Mail Advance Registrations to

CHARLIE SARTORE N9DYE  
709 E. Virginia St.  
Evansville, Indiana 47711

YES, TARS, I'd like \_\_\_ advance  
reservations for your 1986 Hamfest.

I would like \_\_\_ tables at \$ \_\_\_ each.

Amount of remittance enclosed \$ \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_



HWY 1-64

GATES OPEN AT 6:00AM  
MAY 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
BREAKFAST 6:30-9:30  
LUNCH 11:00 TO 1:00

# '86 HAM FEST

AIRCONDITIONED BUILDING  
PLENTY OF PARKING

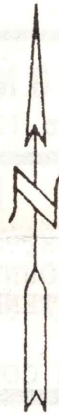
SEE YOU THERE

TALK-IN ON  
147.75/.15  
146.19/.79

DEALERS

FLEA MARKET

EYEBALL QSO



HWY 66

ST JOSEPH AVE

KRATZVILLE RD

FIRST AVE

DARMSTADT RD

DIAMOND AVE

BUSLER'S

IND. STATE  
POLICE POST

INGLEFIELD PPG  
PLANT

SALEM

BAUER'S  
GROVE

OLD BOONVILLE

-NEW HARMONY

HOING

VAND. CO.  
FAIR  
GROUNDS

PETERS BURGH

OLD

HWY 41

HWY 57



## From the Whitehouse



the little one on Washington Avenue

## FEEDBACK de KA9LMO

Hi all, well it's only a few more days till our hamfest. Charlie N9OYE has worked very hard this year so we can have a successful hamfest. I know he still needs some help to tie up last minute details. If you have some time now or on hamfest day I'm sure Charlie can use you.

Delores KA9KRD is in charge of the Ladies Bingo. If your YL or XYL is crafty ask her to make a little something that would be suitable as a Bingo prize. People really appreciate this kind of thing and it would certainly help the club.

I'm sure Charlie could also sure more hourly prizes, you can never have too many. If you have anything you can donate bring it to the May meeting.

Mort W9GJ is in charge of the ticket tables. If you would like to help out there contact him directly so he can pencil you in.

Jim KA9KRE is handling the camping at Bauer's Grove so give him a yell if you have any questions.

Hal, WB9FNN says his novice class is coming along well. We should have some new amateurs in our area soon.

I would like to thank Wendell Munro, W9NLO for his recent donation to the club of a lot of ham gear. This gear will be sold at this years Hamfest and the proceeds used for our Novice Program and to otherwise benefit the club.

A busy summer is ahead. Field Day, Drums on the Ohio, Freedom Festival Parade and other events. Be thinking about what you would like to participate in.

73 Carolyn

I am sure you all have heard the cliché about taking the boy out of the country but never be able to take the country out of the boy. Well something very similar goes on with ham radio operators, especially if they are rag chewers. You have one guess to identify the person of which I am about to speak. LQM? Yep, you're right, I guess I'm becoming quite transparent.

Country also has a significant part of this tale. We hadn't had a quiet weekend in sometime. LQM's in-laws came to visit about a month ago. What was going to be a pleasant little 10 day visit turned into something a bit more. While on an excursion to New Harmony their car was nearly totaled by a hit and run driver. LQM's luck was running true to form. How often could a motorcycle nearly total a tank-like 78 Olds? How many times would the driver of such a vehicle leave the scene of such an accident on foot, he deserves the hobbler of the year award!

Well the lady in blue found him and of course he was unlicensed with no insurance and he wasn't even the bike owner. That poor soul was in the service in the Great Lakes somewhere. To say the whole thing was complicated was the understatement of the century. My mother flew home early and Dad stayed here to wait for his car to be repaired.

Now for any of you who have ever visited our home the realtors phrase of "cute starter home" or "doll house" would apply. These phrases actually translate into "some homes have walk-in closets that are bigger". The two worst rooms are the bath and kitchen. Both could qualify in Ripley's Believe it or Not as the smallest functioning rooms outside of a doll house.

Without putting down LQM or my father, I would have to say that alone they overtaxed the poor rooms capacity, at least there wasn't too many problems with the bath. One day I accidentally entered the kitchen as they were each trying to make a sandwich and we had to get the crow bar to exit. Well the car was finally ready and he returned to Florida's sunny shores.

After all the hassles of THE VISIT as we now refer to it, we decided we needed a break, a chance to relax and get away from it all. We had always heard wonderful things about Brown County and Nashville, Indiana so we called the State Park for reservations. I must admit that I wasn't too hopeful, I had called once in the fall with similar plans in mind and was told I might get reservations for TWO years in the future! But it was meant to be, there was an opening so we made our reservations for a Friday and Saturday night for the next weekend.

The week went smoothly but I did notice LQM becoming a bit withdrawn. We had been discussing the benefits of communing with nature and getting away from it all. Suddenly I couldn't get him away from his packet computer and his hand held went everywhere with him. One morning I even noticed the rubber duckie sticking out from under his pillow.

Continued on Page Four



## A BIG THANKS

We would like to thank Wendell P. Munro, W9NLO for his recent donation to T.A.R.S. Novice program. He donated a Hammerlund HQ-180A Receiver and a HQ-50 Transmitter for the program. Since this equipment is not suitable for use by new novices we will be selling it by sealed bid and use the money obtained to purchase a Ten-Tec Century 21. The Century 21 will be loaned to our new novices to get them on the air. The loan period will be long enough for them to get interested in the hobby, but of a short enough period that everyone will get a chance to use the loaner rig. At present Hal, WB9FNN has a novice class which should graduate in a few weeks.

One of the members is trying to set up a club station at Scott School for the Cub and Boy Scouts; any equipment you would like to donate for this project is appreciated. We already have a SX-99 Receiver donated and a matching Transmitter has been promised. Lets clean out our shacks and get some of these kids on the air if we wish T.A.R.S. to be a viable club a few years down the road.

Just a little over thirty years ago; TARS members helped with the move into the then new St. Mary's Hospital on Washington Avenue. How many of the hams in the photos can you identify. Ye editor has no idea who some of the guys are.

Thanks to Al W9UMS for the photo and very interesting story which will be printed in a future issue.



## AUTOPATCH UPDATE

The simplex autopatch has been having problems and is off the air while repairs are being made. Hopefully this will be completed within a week or two. The patch will be put back in service as soon as possible.

### HAMFEST QSL CARD SPECIALS

500 Economy QSL Cards .....	\$19.95
500 Custom Choice Cards .....	\$29.95
You select the Paper Type, Paper Color, Ink Color Special Backgrounds and Front or Back Report Styles	

#### Available at EXTRA CHARGE

Extra Ink Colors (\$12.00 each extra color) .....	_____
Additional 500 cards (\$16.00 for each 500) .....	_____
Special Reports \$10.00 additional for typesetting .....	_____
Shipping included (UPS Ground in 48 States) .....	_____
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	_____

**YOU MUST ENCLOSE THIS CARD WITH YOUR ORDER**  
**TO RECEIVE THIS SPECIAL PRICING Good thru December 31, 1987**  
 Send \$1.00 Postage & Handling to receive our full catalog & samples

**QSL's by KA9LQM**

Post Office Box 958 • Evansville, IN 47706 U.S.A.



## Feedback Continued

I suspected the AROUND syndrome. That is Amateur Radio Operator Under Nearfatal Distress. This is a little known nervous disorder peculiar to Hams that is brought about by stressful situations. Let me give you a few examples: Everyone in the club goes to Dayton but you, you run out of junk and can't have a table at the Hamfest, you start working on code again to upgrade, your XYL cleans up the shack, a child/grandchild decides your roll of coax is great to make Tarzan swings, you are required to leave your ham radio equipment for longer than 24 hours without even a hand held!

Well this last AROUND scenario was the specter haunting LQM. I confronted him and he admitted it. Then he looked at me sheepishly and asked if he could take just his hand held along. Although I had hoped for a weekend of non-electronic gizmos I am a compassionate person, besides our insurance doesn't cover much on mental illness hospitalizations. So I told him he could take his fix and he happily began to pack.

Tune in next month to hear of our further adventures on washboard roads, country cabins and tourist traps.

TO BE CONTINUED

73 Carolyn

## Mobile Operations

Many amateurs that should know better sometimes ask the impossible of local repeaters. The ride around mobile, grasping a low power handheld and chatter away. No matter how good a repeater is, it was never meant for this type of operation. To operate handheld from a moving vehicle, here is an easy solution to improve that signal, both transmit and receive.

First, get a mobile magnetic mount antenna, 5/8 wave preferred. then go and buy, beg, or borrow a UG-255/U Adapter which is a BNC male plug to a UHF SO-239. This is the normal BNC antenna connector on most HT's to a Standard PL-259. Take off that rubber duckie, insert the adapter to your handheld, attach the antenna. If you HT has a low/high power position, put it in high power. You have now given your repeater a break and your contacts are going to love you for it.

## PACKET RACKET

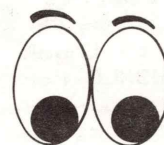
### N4XI PBBS SYSTEM

John Bennett has placed a packet bulletin board system (PBBS) on 145:01. This board is open to everyone and is of the WORLI software which includes autoforwarding capabilities.

You can leave a message on this board for Indianapolis, Lafayette, Anderson or any of the other seventy plus WORLI boards in the country and messages will route to the final destination. Also included is a NTS Traffic section, ARRL bulletins, Indiana Section Bulletins. We will be printing a local Packet Operators Guide very soon.

### TAPR "POOP" SHEET

Well guys it finally hit home, someone other than your editor is against the BEACONS; there I said the nasty word. If you support the packet mode give me a call and I will send you a copy of the "POOP" sheet. It is labeled Offensive Material on the Cover so be warned. It is like the song of a few years ago "Welfare Cadillac" only those who abuse the BEACON MODE will be offended by it. The PBBS has had forwarding problems due to beacons in our area and also beacons along the presently shakey route of 5 digipeaters. **PLEASE get a copy of the sheet, read it, and adjust your operations in line with the recommended operating practices of the developer of the mode TAPR.** Enough Editorial see you all at the hamfest.



de KA9LQM

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The May program will be presented by the NWS and should be very interesting with storm season arriving shortly. Come on out and meet one of the local weather men. NWS is also scheduling a forum at this years Hamfest. They would like to meet some of the Hams from the surrounding counties. Evansville NWS has responsibility for 42 counties in Indiana and Kentucky.

Try monitoring the local repeater during the day. With many of us working there are periods when not enough eyes and ears are on the air. During our last severe weather net several areas were without coverage.

This is an important chance to make your views known and find out how we can help in the attempt to get Doppler Radar in the NWS at Evansville. This may be the key to keeping an active NWS office in Evansville. Current plans do not include us as a first generation site. Several of our representatives are working on the problem at present.

-----  
IDEA (Indiana Digital Experimenters Association) has just mailed the latest 26 page newsletter to all the known Packet Operators in Indiana. Contact me for more information on IDEA; dues are \$12.00 per year and include the newsletter. The newsletter alone is well worth the investment.

-----  
Remember May 8th, 1986 is the next club meeting. 7:30 PM at the Red Cross Building, Diamond and Heidelbach Avenues.



2

1986



# SPARKS

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA



### OFFICERS:

President Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Vice Pres. John Lenn, WA9IVE  
Secretary Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NQD  
Robert Henn, KA9TML  
Cliff McGuyer, W9CM  
George Utley, N9FMO  
Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



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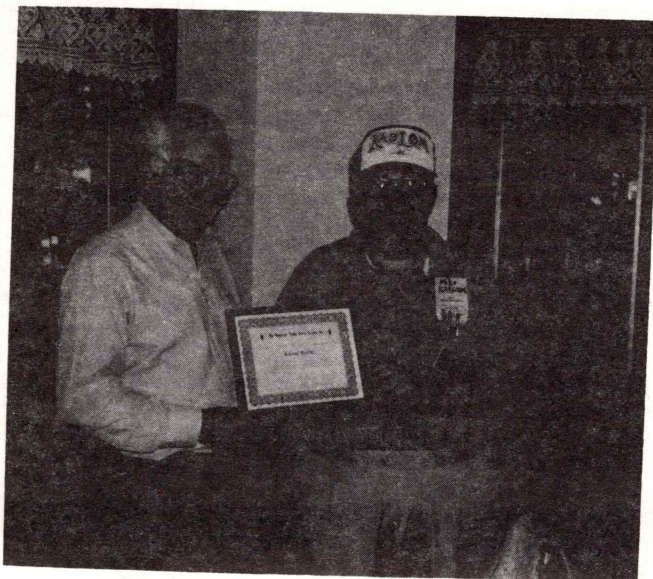
The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15 Everyone Welcome to this net.

### First Class Mail

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:



The big smiles belong to Ed Metzger, ARRL Central Division Director and Mike Anderson KA9LQM. Mike as most of you know is the newsletter editor of this publication.

Ed named Mike an Assistant ARRL Director and presented him with a certificate proclaiming that fact at our recent Hamfest. Mike will be assisting Ed with various ARRL duties in our neck of the woods.

Ed tried to keep the presentation a secret but a letter congratulating KA9LQM arrived at his home from ARRL headquarters a couple of weeks previous to the Hamfest. Ed chuckled that it was one of the rare times the home office sent out correspondence on time!

Congratulations Mike!

## JUNE PROGRAM

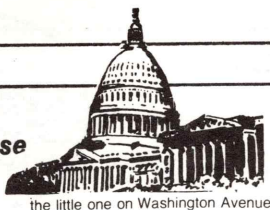
Next TARS meeting will be June 12, 1986 at ARC. The program will be presented by KA9LQM and will consist of a slide show from the ARRL on the AWA (Antique Wireless Association) museum which is located in Rochester, New York.

The AWA museum is a historical storehouse of early radio & television memorabilia; covering not only the early amateur but also the commercial ship to shore, AM, Telegraph, and early television equipment.

Of course a 30 minute slide show can not show everything there but it will give you enough of a taste that I bet you will take the time to stop if you are ever visiting in or near Rochester. For the trivia buffs; How many different tubes were in the RCA 800 series and what was the largest and its use. Come to the June meeting and you too will know the answer.



## From the Whitehouse



Hamfest 1986 is now history and I would like to thank those who made it possible.

On behalf of all of the TARS members a very big pat on the back goes to Charlie Sartore N9DYE our Hamfest Chairman. Charlie put in many hours and it really showed on May 18!

Thank you to Jim KA9KRE and Delores KA9KRD Shoptaugh for their efforts with the SIGECO hot show and the Ladies Bingo.

Thanks to Blanche KA9EIV and the crew administering the VE tests.

Mort Silverman W9GJ and his crew did a wonderful job selling the admission and special prize tickets. Thanks to all of you for handling the greenbacks so well.

Thanks to Roy Cloukey K9IWP for taking care of the Flea Market and helping many of us with unloading.

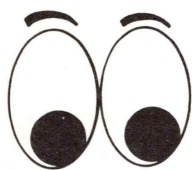
Talk in during the early AM was handled quite ableble by Tom Donovan N9EGI and it was appreciated by a lot of folks trying to find Bauer's Grove. Tom was assisted by several others and thanks also go out to them.

If I have left your name out please forgive me, so many helped with so much, Thank You to all who helped make Hamfest 86' a success!

Congratulations are also in order for Mike Anderson KA9LQM who was recently named an ARRL Assistant Director by Central Division Director Ed Metzner.

Summer is here and that means Field Day, Freedom Festival Events and a lot of fun at other Hamfests. Enjoy it all and help where you can.

73 Carolyn KA9LMO



## Editor's Notebook

de KA9LQM

Well the last month certainly was exciting; just ask WA9IVE and K8GIK how it feels to watch a tornado coming at you from the weather service office. They also had the job of being on Television the next day to help out ARC and TARS with some free publicity during the newscasts. A big thanks to ALL the operators who helped with the emergency weather nets. We were very lucky that no loss of life occurred in and near the Evansville area.

Property damage in Vanderburgh & Posey county was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars; however personal injuries were slight. This should warn all of us that WE DO LIVE IN TORNADO ALLEY. Lets all work together and see if we can get doppler radar at Dress Regional Airport.

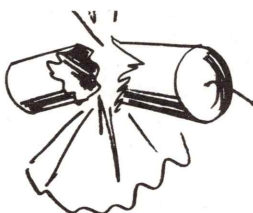
The politicians can help to some degree; however they are already giving it their best shot.

We as amateurs can do little to help as an organized group; however WE AS TAXPAYERS AND INDIVIDUALS can. That statement may confuse you. Here is the logic behind it. Sending letters to your elected representatives signed as a member of a group such as T.A.R.S. just gets looked at as a lobbying effort by a special interest group; however the same letter sent by you as an individual (Not mentioning you are a Ham and a member of any special interest group) can do wonders. Be sure and remind the recipient of the letter if you voted for them in the last election and tell them in your own words that you would like to see the Evansville Office of NWS remain as your first line source of Weather and Warning Bulletins. Let them know how secure the idea of the office being in Paducah, Ky makes you sleep and that if you can't sleep you may think of electing other representatives who will give you piece of mind which will allow you to Sleep. Enough from the pulpit, editor will now climb down from his soapbox and go on to more important things.

The 39th TARS Hamfest is now history and was at Bauers Grove this year. Let your officers and board of directors know how you feel about this location. The good as well as the bad points; we need to start planning and working on the 40th. Annual T.A.R.S. Hamfest very soon. At least the site has to be reserved almost a year in advance; so make your feelings known.

June is also FIELD DAY and as usual will be held at the FOP camp. If you have never been to one give W9FHA a call he will fill you in on the details and schedule your operating time when you desire.

WARNING!!! Be sure to bring plenty of tums or rolaids for KA9KRE's famous or is that infamous cooking.





## TARS Shirts & Jackets

### Order Now

We are in the process of ordering Golf Shirts with the TARS logo and name, callsign. The first batch of shirts arrived shortly before the Hamfest. So if you saw someone at the hamfest and want to order a shirt see KA9LQM.

The shirts are a powder blue with logo in navy blue on the back of the shirt. Name and call in gold. The shirts have a sewn collar and are 50% Poly 50% Cotton. The cost is \$13.00 for sizes small to x-large and 2XL shirts are \$15.00.

We will be having another order sometime after the Hamfest and before the freedom festival events.

Also we are in the process of getting another T.A.R.S. Jacket order together; the more jackets we can order the lower the price. Jackets will be ordered only about once each year due to the minimum quantities required; so if you would like a jacket or another jacket give KA9LQM a call as soon as possible.

Shirts will be ordered shortly after the June Meeting and Jackets sometime in early July.

## RUSS PRICE....Silent Key

A traffic accident on May 20th, at Daylight, Indiana took the life of Russ Price, W9GWL, and left his wife Millie in serious condition. Russ, who had been a farmer most of his life, was born in 1913 at Griffin, Indiana and the last few years spent the winters at their trailer home in Mission, Texas.

He would check in on the 9-4 net from there to get the Wabash River stages. Russ and Millie attended the annual 9-4 dinner at Wolf's on Sunday May 18th.

Licensed about 50 years ago, he was one of the early birds on sideband and a regular check-in on the 10 meter nets of 15 years ago. He was also a regular on the two meter emergency nets, and had checked in on May 15th with the severe weather conditions at Griffin. An accomplished, self-taught organist, Russ kept an electric organ at both his home in Griffin and in Mission, Texas. A very distinctive voice from Griffin will be missed by many.

KA9EIV

### *From the Grapevine*

The answers to all FCC tests are available, The W5YI Report, even though a VEC in all regions has been given permission by the FCC to distribute license preparation materials as a convenience to applicants and VE's. All materials contain all questions, answers and most important a discussion why answers are right. They have a Novice, Tech/General, Advanced and Extra Study Guide in addition to FCC Part 97 Rules for more information on these study guides write W5YI Reports at Post Office Box 10101 Dallas, TX 75207. The prices are in the \$3.00 to 5.00 range with postage extra.

-----  
JY2RBH, World's youngest "HAM"

Congratulations to King Hussein, JY1, and Queen Noor, JY2NH, on the birth of their fourth child, Her Royal majesty Princess Raya. In keeping with recent Jordanian tradition, she has been assigned the call JY2RBH.

## Volunteer Examiner's Update de KA9EIV

The Volunteer Examiner test session held on May 18th at the TARS Hamfest site was a success although the room conditions could have been greatly improved. Twenty one persons took a total of 28 tests. Of these, the following upgraded:

Bobby G. Hardin	KB4QKN	to	Technician
George L. Utley	N9FMO	to	General
Steven P. Cardinal	WD9IDN	to	Advanced
Jerry L. Holliday	KB4SGT	to	Technician
George Wimpelberg	KA9IKC	to	Technician
Rickey S. Shackles	KA9SKT	to	General
Ronald D. Price	KD9UT	--	20 WPM Code Credit
Herman L. McMichael, Jr.	KA9UBO	to	Technician
Bruce A. Laney	WD4NET	to	Advanced & 20 WPM Code Credit
Michael W. Heath	N4LOT	to	Advanced & 20 WPM Code Credit
Shirley J. Grisham	KB4SXM	to	Technician
Danny R. Midkiff	KA9VBM	to	Technician

The VE team consisted of liaison - N9DEO, N4XI and N9CUK.

Contact - KA9EIV and helpers W9BC, WB9FNN and WB9VSQ.

The next VE Test session will be August 23rd. at IVTC, more on this later.



## Continued from May issue of SPARKS.....The Weekend

Well we were off. For those of you who missed the May issue LQM and I decided to get away from it all in Brown County in Nashville, Indiana. See the May column for the gory details as to why it was so necessary.

We thought the fates were with us, we both got off work early and headed toward Bloomington and Brown County. The first hour of the trip was pleasant and without problems. Then the fatal words were spoken, "Ok, Carolyn, here's where we pick up the shortcut Mr. X told me about". I am always dubious of those words, past experience has taught me well.

I scanned the map carefully and the "short cut" was not a solid black line, it was light mauve, if this isn't an omen of doom I've never heard of one. Nice solid black lines usually mean a road that the mighty Escort can negotiate fairly well while a mauve line indicates problems for a mountain goat.

I related this to LQM but he insisted we try the short cut; I agreed glumly as I readied my litany of I told you so's. I must admit that I did enjoy the road. I usually have to pay good money to ride on a combination roller coaster/washboard. But sixty minutes later we had survived, and it had only taken us a extra 20 minutes, not bad as short cuts go.

We finally rolled into Bloomington at 7 pm on a Friday night. Eeek - if you thought the short cut was bad try to get across a university town on TGIF party down night. We stopped at Mama Bear's on the edge of town for nourishment and eventually fought our way across town with bread sticks in hand.

Yeah! By 9pm we had made our way to the state park and had located our room. We unpacked and flung open our window and listened to the sounds of nature. LQM looked quite angelic as he studied the park brochures concerning the high points, elevation wise, especially pointing out the various watch towers.

LQM went out for ice a lot that night and his HT always went with him. I was so tired I didn't give it a second thought. However, the next morning I did hear a strange conversation between two park rangers. It seems they spent the night chasing some kind of large animal around the various high points of the park while it make strange clicking noises and it gave a mating call that contained the sounds of the letters Q and C.

So we headed into Nashville and did the usual tourist things, we shopped and ate! We had been very curious to try a restaurant that had been highly recommended to us more than once. It was very quaint and rustic as one would expect until you read the menu. Here is where the Harvard School of Business took over Ma and Pa's little ole' business.

I almost needed someone from Harvard's Medical School as LQM's eyes nearly bugged out. The lunch chef salad was only \$8.95, the Evansville version of a meat and three vegetable plate lunch was \$9.95, and the half fried chicken dinner a mere \$12.95!

We finally decided on the basket of 12 fried biscuit with apple butter and tea for 2 for \$6.00.

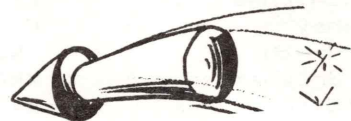
I had to rush LQM back to the room after that one and let him rest. I took a little walk and tried to commune with nature. I saw a beautiful bird that I knew he would enjoy so I went back to get him but he wasn't to be found and the HT was missing. As I put two and two together I noticed a trail of familiar footprints and followed them to a fire tower.

I climbed stealthily up and heard a little voice saying, "CQ, CQ is anyone monitoring from civilization?" I peeked around the corner and saw his little face light up as someone responded and I left him to his prized contact.

Ah Wilderness, I thought, please don't let that joker from civilization know another short cut!

73 Carolyn

**Field Day & Freedom Festival Events**  
**Contact John Small, W9FHA**  
**For More Details.**



**DON'T FORGET**





## SPARKS

### Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXXVIII No. VIII August / September 1986



#### OFFICERS:

President Carolyn Anderson, KA9LMO  
Vice Pres John Lenn, WA9IVE  
Secretary Mort Silverman, W9GJ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

#### DIRECTORS:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Charlie Finke, WB9NOD  
Robert Henn, KA9TML  
Cliff McGuyer, W9CM  
George Utley, N9FMO  
Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE

#### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson, KA9LQM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelbach Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time. The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15. Everyone Welcome to this net.

**First Class Mail**

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

0044  
Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

1986  
W9AIN

IN

## TARS PICNIC — SEPT. 27

Emergency Communications Conference (ECC) is scheduled for all TARS members and their guests on Saturday September 27, 1986 at the Salem United Church of Christ which is located one half mile north of Darmstadt. In addition to the vital business of the ECC we will of course have a chicken dinner with all usual activities. This is more commonly called the PICNIC by those of you who are not up on the need for Emergency Communications Conferences.

This years ECC will start at 2:00 PM with food being served at 4:00 PM. We will be having a few contests which will polish your communication skills. For example John Lenn, WA9IVE is sponsoring the Horseshoe pitching contest; however instead of using the dangerous metal variety we will use a new and unique method.. Come to the Picnic and find out how you are at "John's Brand of Horseshoe Pitchin".

Also in an attempt to polish your communications skills we will have a "Liars Contest" with a valuable prize furnished by Carolyn KA9LMO. Mike, KA9LQM has disqualified KA9LMO from this contest due to the fact all the lies she tells about him in Feedback would surly win her the first prize.

Mike guarantee's no one will go home hungry this year with lots of chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls and fresh fruit for desert. Cost of the ECC will be \$2.00 per person with children under 12 free. Their is a reservation blank in this months Sparks send it back in time to reach KA9LQM by Monday September 22. Remember Children are free but their dinners must be ordered on the reservation blank also. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs unless you like to sit on the ground. Talk-in on the 147.75/15 repeater. SEE YOU THERE!!!

### PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT VOLUNTEER EXAMINER TEST

TARS next VE Test Session will be November 22, 1986 at Indiana Vocational Technical College, 3501 First Avenue, Evansville, Indiana.

Contact person for this test session will be Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV. Walk-ins will be accepted; however getting your 610 forms in for advance reservations is encouraged.

Send completed 610 form, a check made payable to ARRL/VEC in the amount of \$4.25 and a photocopy of present license. Be sure you have your original license signed before you photocopy it.

Send to Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV at 840 Herndon Drive, Evansville, IN 47711 or Phone (812) 424-8192 if you need additional information. If requesting a 610 form please include a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope.



## Southern Indiana Wins at Indy Hamfest

Southern Indiana came home with several awards at the Indianapolis Hamfest for public service.

Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV received:

- #1) Emergency Service Award for outstanding service to the public service organization of the state of Indiana and the Amateur Radio Service.
- #2) Indiana Radio Club Council Hoosier Courtesy Award in recognition of Courteous and Efficient operation of Radio Station KA9EIV.
- #3) Indiana Traffic Net certificate of merit to KA9EIV in recognition of outstanding service to Amateur Radio.

Lloyd Weinert, KB9NR received:

- #1) Indiana Radio Club Council Hoosier Courtesy Award in recognition of Courteous and Efficient operation of Radio Station KB9NR.
- #2) Indiana Traffic Net certificate of merit to KB9NR in recognition of outstanding service to Amateur Radio.

Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE received:

- #1) Indiana Radio Club Council Meritorious Service Award in recognition of Courteous and Efficient operation of Radio Station KA9KRE.

This is the first time as far as this editor can remember of this many awards going to the Southern Indiana Area. Again Congratulations to all the guys and gals for bringing the goodies home to the Evansville Area. Lets try and do it again next year.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### TREASURER REPORT FOR JUNE & JULY 1986

Balance as of June 5, 1986		\$4388.55
Income		
Club Dues .....	18.00	
Interest for June.....	18.17	
Interest for July .....	20.21	
-----		
Total Income -----	\$ 56.38	\$4444.93
Expenses		
Insurance .....	364.00	
Field Day .....	42.00	
Postage .....	44.00	
-----		
Total Expenses .....	\$ 450.00	\$3994.93
Balance as of August 4, 1986		\$3994.93

## From the White House

(The Little One on Washington Avenue)

September 1 is here already and we finally have the air conditioner off. Fall and the holiday season aren't far away.

I would like to thank everyone who helped the club and the tri-state area via all the hours worked on our summer activities.

The community services we provide justifies to the folks in DC the existence of Amateur Radio. And if you have never helped with any of these special events you just can't believe how appreciative the local sponsors are too. So next year when the hectic season rolls around consider pitching in, besides it's fun!

Well after one picnic and two more meetings it's Christmas party time. For those of you who like to fill in your calendar early for that busy time of year here's your first date. The TARS Christmas party will be held on Friday Dec. 19. We are going back to the men's club this year now that the liquor liability laws are reasonable again. I'm looking forward to that big fire already. If anyone has any ideas on catering or would like to be in charge of food for the party let me know.

Feedback is on vacation for this month only. If you have ever had surgery you know that for several weeks following you don't feel very funny. Well that's where I am at the moment but I guarantee my funny bone is healing well and should reappear next month.

Hey let's have a lot of entrants in the 1ST EVER AND MAYBE LAST ANNUAL ECC LIAR'S CONTEST. Put your thinking cap on and see if



## ARES UPDATE

Freedom Festival Parade -- June 27th.  
W9FHA and N9FMO attended weekly meetings  
W9FHA, net control KA9KRE, assistant net control  
WA9IVE, stationed at reviewing stand -- riding or walking  
parade divisions were WD9EDH, WB9QVR, WB9FNN, N9DEQ,  
N9EVY, WB9EFH, KA9SXC and KA9TML. Assisting in the staging  
area were N9DEO, WA9HGA and KA9EIV.

Hot Air Balloon Race -- June 28th.  
K9STX worked the ground area where the 38 balloons were  
inflated and relayed information to W9UMS who made  
announcements.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch -- July 12th.  
Assisted National Weather Service by relaying weather  
conditions to and from areas in S.E. Illinois, S.W.  
Indiana and N.W. Kentucky. 12 amateurs took part with  
K8GIK and KA9LQM operating at National Weather Service and  
K9STX and KA9EIV operating base station.

Hydroplane Races July 12 & 13  
N9DYE attended the meetings and was in charge of  
communications by amateur radio. He was assisted by  
KA9LQM, N9EVY, WB9JVP and N9EGI at the river front and  
KA9EIV monitoring at base station. They assisted American  
Red Cross at the First Aid Stations.

Drums on the Ohio August 7th.

The following amateurs greatly assisted the drum  
corps involved in the annual contest by escorting busses  
and trucks through the maze of construction in downtown  
Evansville as well as providing needed communications for  
the judges during the event. W9UMS, W9VZX, KA9KRE,  
WA9IVE, K8GIK, WB9JIM, N9DEQ1, WD9EDH, KA9TML, N9FMO and  
KA9SXC

Thanks to everyone's help amateur radio again lived up to  
the public service aspects of our hobby and we are greatly  
appreciated by the Freedom Festival Committee for our work  
every year.

## NAMES in the NEWS

N9EGI, Tom working a motorcycle mobile while on his way  
to the Carmi Air Show.

KA9LQM and KA9LMO making a fast U-turn on I-64 when  
hearing about the Carmi Air Show.

Paul K8GIK receiving the Michael Vandever Trolley Lovers  
Award at the recent WACARC meeting. This award was  
presented to Paul by his dear friend John WA9IVE. Ask John  
to fill you in on the details of this splendid award if  
you were not present at the last TARS meeting.

NC9W Father Paul at St. Meinrad has a packet digi-peater  
on 145.01 To Access the digi-peater use NC9W-1 or its  
Alias Call of STM. To reach Father Paul who is back in  
Louisville finishing his senior year of school the path  
from the Evansville area is K4DPP, STM, K4MOP-1, NC9W

## GET WELL SOON

August was not a good  
month health-wise for TARS  
members. The President  
Carolyn KA9LMO is at home  
following surgery on August  
2nd and doing fine. She has  
finally asked for a  
microphone so her eventual  
recovery is almost assured.

It must be contagious  
since Elvin, WB9VSQ's wife  
Joan had the same operation  
almost a week later she too  
is at home and doing fine.

Next on August 9th.  
Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE  
suffered a stroke and is in  
Deaconess Hospital  
receiving therapy and is on  
the road to recovery now.

Last but not least a  
regular check-in to the  
Tri-State Emergency Net  
WA4TRM Rayburn from  
Morganfield KY is also in  
Deaconess recovering from  
surgery.

We wish everyone a  
speedy recovery and hope  
this trend doesn't continue  
we would hate to have to  
mail get well cards at the  
bulk mail rate. If you  
would like to cheer the  
guys and gals up send them  
a card to let them know you  
are thinking of them.

## ARRL/VEC QUESTION POOL

The ARRL/VEC will put  
the new class question pool  
into use, starting on  
October 1, and expects to  
use this pool through  
September 30, 1987. The FCC  
released this pool in April  
1986, and also requires  
that all VECs put the new  
pool into use no later than  
six months after the pools  
release. Also, the FCC had  
not yet released the new  
Novice class question pool.  
The ARRL/VEC still intends  
to change it's Novice class  
testing material on January  
1, 1987. League Lines in  
October QST will carry the  
up to date information.

de Aug. 4 The ARRL Letter  
american Radio Relay League



## Congratulations on Licence Upgrades

FCC testing by Volunteer Examiners was held Saturday August 23rd at IVTC.

The following upgraded their Amateur Radio license:

Rene D'Amico, KB4TFV	to Technician
Robert E. Henn, KA9TML	to General
Russel H. Commens, WB9NAU	to Extra
Blanche M. Elpers, KA7EIV	to Extra
John Lippke	to Novice

Three other persons took tests and failed.

Examiners were W9BC, W9CM, and AE9Z. W9GJ made arrangements for the rooms and test equipment and administered the novice tests. N9DEO was the VE team contact and VE team liaison.

The next VE test session will be November 22 at IVTC.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

**Due to the Emergency Communications Conference the regular TARS meeting on September 11 at the Red Cross Building will be canceled. See you at the Picnic!**

## White House Continued

you can come up with a good one for the picnic. It can be a long story or a one liner but make sure it is outrageous. For example - ALL HAMS LOVE CW or RAG CHEWERS DON'EXIST ON THE AMATEUR RADIO BANDS or IT'S SO EASY TO TRAVEL IN EVANSVILLE THESE DAYS. Now we don't want anything nasty but do be creative. We will have two prizes, one for the BEST LIAR and one for the effort we could call the THIS REMINDS ME OF HOW MOM COULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME WHEN I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL. Now anyone can enter, club members, YL's, XYL's, even the kids; so come prepared. Well time to put up my feet and recuperate some more. See y'all at the picnic.

73 KA9LMO Carolyn

## LICENCE RENEWALS GRACE PERIODS

A number of inquiries about renewing an amateur license and its grace period have been mentioned on the repeater recently. The following is the latest info from ARRL HQ.

If you have a license good for a five year term, it's grace period, should you fail to renew, is five years. After two years of the grace period has elapsed, you will lose your callsign and will be assigned a new one. NOTE that the new ten year term licenses, which have been issued since January 1984 have only a two year grace period.

```
*****
*
* 1986 TARS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE
*
*      Saturday September 27, 1986
*      2:00 PM until ?????? Eat at 4:00 PM
*      Salem United Church of Christ
*      1/2 Mile North of Darmstadt
*
*****
*
* Yes, we will attend the Picnic
*
* _____ Adult Dinners @ 2.00 Each      $ _____
*
* _____ Children Dinners Under 12 years No Charge
*
*****
*
* Enclose check made payable to TARS and send your
* Reservation to arrive no later than Sept. 22, 1986
*
* Mail Reservations to:  Mike Anderson, KA9LQM
*                        Post Office Box 3284
*                        Evansville, IN 47732
*
*****
```





## SPARKS

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXXVIII No. XI November 1986

### OFFICERS:

President Carolyn Anderson KA9LMO  
Vice Pres John Lenn WA9IVE  
Secretary Mori Silverman W9GJ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore N9DYE

### DIRECTORS:

Mike Anderson KA9LOM  
Charlie Finke WB9NOD  
Robert Henn KA9TML  
Cecil McGuyer W9CM  
George Utley N9FMO  
Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE

### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson KA9LOM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



TO:



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First Class Mail

0044  
Fay Gehres  
2232 East Powell  
Evansville  
47715

1986  
W9AIN

IN

# 1987 HAMFEST

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

SUNDAY MAY 17, 1987

National Guard Armory  
Mark your Calendar Early

1987  
CALL PLATES

## ELECTIONS

The nominating committee consisting of chairman George Utley, Bob Henn and Carolyn Anderson has come up with the following slate of candidates for 1987 TARS Officers & Board of Directors.

President,	John Lenn, WA9IVE
Vice-President,	Mike Anderson, KA9LQM
Secretary	Bob Henn, KA9TML
Treasurer	Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

Board of Directors	Ed Estes, WB9RWB
	Ralph Waldo, K9STX

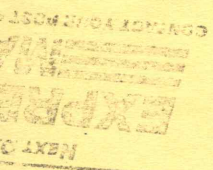
The annual election will be at the November meeting which is Nov. 13th at the Red Cross Building. There will also be nominations for any office taken from the floor the night of the election. We still have one director's position which must be filled the night of the elections. If you would like to nominate someone; please check with them in advance to make sure they will accept the nomination.

According to TARS Constitution all candidates for office must have been a TARS member for one year prior to the election. If in doubt as to someone's membership status call Charlie Sartore, N9DYE he can verify the current status of membership in TARS.

Now is the time to order your 1987 Amateur Radio license Plates for your vehicles. The charge for the personalized Ham Plates is \$2.00 plus the normal plate charges. However; they must be ordered by December 31, 1986 in order for you to obtain the plates in 1987.

This is a real bargain for all Hams since regular personalized plates are \$40.00 plus regular charges. The license bureau suggests that you order in November and before December 10th if possible to avoid the last minute problems with the holiday closings of the license branches.

If you had Ham plates last year all you need is your current registration to reorder. If this is your first year to order you must have your original license issued by the FCC to prove to the license bureau that you are entitled to order the plates at this special rate.





## From the White House

(the little one on washington avenue)

We have a new ARRL Section appointee in Southern Indiana. He is in fact a member of our club. He is the editor of this newsletter and packet person extraordinaire!!!! Yep you guessed it - Mike Anderson, KA9LQM is the person.

Mike was appointed as the Public Information Officer (PIO), for the State of Indiana effective October 13, 1986. Ron Koczor, K9TUS Indiana ARRL Section Manager made the appointment.

Mike will be handling PR duties for the ARRL in Indiana. His goals are to spread the word on Amateur Radio. He hopes to get more media attention for our major activities and general coverage concerning the avocation itself.

He feels that attracting new members to clubs and new amateurs period is very important. It seems as if computers and other high tech areas get a lot of attention today. He wants everyone to know that Amateur Radio is alive and well; and that it is as interesting and stimulating as ever!!

As PIO he is also looking for helpers Public Information Assistants (PIA). You do not have to be a TARS member to function in this capacity; however as with all ARRL appointments you must be a current ARRL member. If you have enjoyed PR activities in other volunteer organizations this would be a natural for you. The workload is not excessive and can be a lot of fun. Contact Mike for more information about being a PIA - You can write, phone, 2-meter or packet him about that.

Also if anyone hears of any good human interest type of Ham PR pass it on to Mike; if possible he will make arrangements to have it covered by the news media and get photographs taken of the event. He can forward it to the media - they love those kinds of stories on slow news days - and Amateur Radio can get some valuable exposure.

If you are involved with a group; youth, school, seniors, etc. that would like information on Amateur Radio the ARRL has unlimited supplies and resources. Mike will be able to easily tap into the pool now. Again, just contact him for information.

Congratulations Mike - we know you'll do a great job spreading the word - it it has anything to do with pure volume of ragchewing he can't be beat! (Can you tell KA9LMO wrote this!)

73 Carolyn KA9LMO

## VE TEST DATE

### NOVEMBER 22 IVY TECH

Less than three weeks to the next VE Test Session. It will be November 22, 1986 at Indiana Vocational Technical College, 3501 First Avenue, Evansville, Indiana.

For more information contact Blanche Elpers, KA9EIV at 424-9182. Please let Blanche know if you plan to be a walk-in it does speed the process up considerable if they know you will be attending.

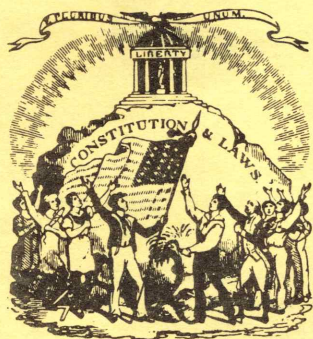
At present the VE team is evaluating the number of testing dates needed next year. We have been experiencing a steady decline in individuals taking the tests. Please give Blanche your input on this important matter.

## Treasurer Report

### TREASURER REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 1986

Balance as of September 17, 1986		\$3973.39
Income		
Interest for Sept. & Oct. ....	35.25	
ARRL Renewals .....	52.00	
Club Dues .....	16.00	
ECC Picnic .....	84.00	
Total Income -----	\$187.25	\$4160.64
Expenses		
Refreshments.....	28.98	
ECC Picnic .....	9.44	
ARRL Renewals .....	48.00	
Total Expenses .....	\$ 86.42	\$4074.22
Balance as of October 31, 1986		\$4074.22





Why amend the TARS constitution is a question which was asked last month after the proposed constitutional changes were introduced at the meeting last month. The proposed changes reflect the manner in which TARS has operated for the last five or six years. We have discovered conflicting editions of past constitutions and felt that the entire document should be revised to reflect the true picture of TARS day to day operations and be refiled with the Secretary of the State to ensure that TARS Board and membership in general were protected by having us operate within the framework of an updated constitution. Some areas were modified so that they referenced the Clubs By-laws. By-Laws may be amended easier than the constitution for such purposes as dues changes, etc. However, the only major change is the introduction of an additional membership class for family members. This will allow TARS to claim the spouses of ARRL members who at present do not count towards our 51% ARRL membership requirement to maintain Special Service Club status. The new class is entirely optional and would cost the spouse only \$2.00 per year extra.



About a month to the 1986 TARS Christmas Party!!!

Don't be a "SCROOGE" mark your calendar for FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1986 THE TARS CHRISTMAS PARTY. A reservation blank is in this issue of Sparks be sure and get your reservations back to the Treasurer Charlie Sartore, N9DYE as soon as possible; but no later than December 10th.

Due to the recent change in the liquor liability laws you can bring your own favorite refreshments to the party this year. The club will furnish soft drinks, ice, mixers and hopefully iced tea.

If you have never been to a TARS party at the Kingsmen's Club you have missed a lot of fun. The menu will be Fried Chicken, Ham with all the trimmings including a Big Cake for KA9EIV and she will share it with everyone.

We have a few other surprises in store and door prize drawings for LICENSED TARS MEMBERS. So if you have been sitting on your good intentions pay your TARS dues and join us for a fun night at the Christmas Party.

Also we will have a visit from Santa for all the good little boys and girls. You know the only difference between men and boys is the price of the toys so come talk with Santa even if your approaching 80 instead of 8.

Santa says he know who all the good boys and girls are and also knows who's been bad this year. He also promises to have something special this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* 1986 TARS CHRISTMAS PARTY \*

\* Friday December 19, 1986 \*

\* 6:00 PM until ????? Eat at 7:30 PM \*

\* Kingsmen's Club just off Hwy 57 \*

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\* Address \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\* City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\* Yes, we will attend the Christmas Party \*

\* \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Dinners @ 5.00 Each \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\* \_\_\_\_\_ Children Dinners (Under 12) \$ FREE \*

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Enclose check made payable to TARS and send your \*

\* Reservation to arrive no later than Dec. 10, 1986 \*

\* Mail Reservations to: Charlie Sartore, N9DYE \*

\* 709 East Virginia Street \*

\* Evansville, IN 47711 \*

\*\*\*\*\*



Shortly we will be having a large Boy Scout meeting at Burdette Park. It will be an all day affair with the guys working on the new Radio Merit Badge.

We will be needing at least 12 licensed hams to man the various stations during the day. The reason for needing licensed amateurs is we are accepted by the scouting organization as certified individuals who can attest to the fact the guys actually worked through the merit badge program.

Now for what we can do for TARS and Amateur Radio in general. By also setting up a station for phone, cw and packet we get a chance to talk up the fun of Ham Radio to around 200 attentive scouts during the period of a day. If we would only get a 5% interest we could fill another Novice class with little effort.

Second opportunity, John Lenn, WA9IVE has a group of adults from the last National Weather Service class who are interested in becoming amateurs so they too can work in the Skywarn and Spotter program. How many of our club members would pay \$50.00 to take a class about weather just so they would be more qualified to become a spotter. Think about it; here is our chance to get another 5 or 6 adults and several youngsters interested in Ham radio. Also Bob Henn has introduced the new ARRL Archie Comic books into Plaza middle school.

The question is TARS going to get the ball and run with it and score a TD in recruitment or will we fumble on the one yard line. THE CHOICE IS YOURS! When you are asked to help with the scout group think about it before just saying NO.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Instead of my usual column this month I am jumping up on my soapbox again. As election time came again this year I see the annual problem rear its UGLY HEAD AGAIN.

That's APATHY for those of you who don't seem to care. It's a bad word to have to use, in general we have a wonderful group of Amateur's, but in some very important areas of TARS it is unfortunately TRUE.

Just ask anyone who was on the nominating committee; they talked to almost everyone in the club and all they got was A BIG NO WAY. TARS can't survive as a growing, active club without participation from it's members.

If you come to the public service events to which TARS has committed you always see the same group of workers. Come to the meetings make yourself an active part of TARS. Don't sit at home and let the other guy do it all. The Other Guy in most cases he is already active in several other clubs and organizations in Evansville or his home town. When asked to help he says YES knowing his schedule is already tight.

TARS activities are not time consuming. How many hours do you think the Shriner's put in for the circus. I know of volunteers at the zoo that have worked over 100 hours in a month. The largest commitment we have is the Freedom Festival and that isn't a major undertaking. The Hamfest in May is a one day event with minimal work beforehand. The Hamfest Chairman takes care of 95% of the pre-hamfest work and details. All that is needed the day of the Hamfest are willing workers.

REACT (that's the CB group that most hams don't like to think about) has only 33 members in Vanderburgh County. But almost everyone knows or has heard about REACT. Why you might ask? One reason is that they are very visible in their public service work. TARS is trying to increase our public visibility via the Jackets and Golf Shirts that were made available recently. However, they do have to be hanging on a pair of shoulders that are out there working in community service before TARS can be noticed. TARS will gain no recognition if the jacket is hanging in the closet or if the shirt is folded in a drawer.

Since becoming Public Information Officer for the State of Indiana I am seeing what some of the clubs in the state are doing to help their community and their club. Do you want to have an ACTIVE CLUB or do you in fact want a LAZYBOY group of armchair members. The choice is up to you - HELP or the CLUB WILL WILT ON THE VINE. We can have one of the best clubs in Indiana or we can have the largest inactive club. YOU CAN AND DO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE! So get off your good intentions and help TARS become one of the most vital clubs in the State.

73 Mike KA9LQM





## SPARKS

### Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Volume XXXVIII No. XII December 1986



#### OFFICERS:

President Carolyn Anderson KA9LMO  
Vice Pres John Lenn WA9IVE  
Secretary Mort Silverman W9GJ  
Treasurer Charlie Sartore N9DYE

#### DIRECTORS:

Mike Anderson KA9LOM  
Charlie Finke WB9NOD  
Robert Henn KA9TML  
Cliff McGuyer W9CM  
George Utley N9FMO  
Jim Shoptaugh KA9KRE

#### SPARKS EDITOR:

Mike Anderson KA9LOM  
Day 424-2306  
Night 476-5572



TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Diamond and Heidelberg Avenues at the American Red Cross building. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM Evansville time.  
The Officers & Directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday at 7:00 PM Evansville time at the American Red Cross building.

The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8:00 PM Evansville time on the W9OG Repeater 147.75/15. Everyone Welcome to this net.

**First Class Mail**

from:

Mike Anderson  
Post Office Box 3284  
Evansville, IN 47732

TO:

Love of his fellow man.

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F  
T  
Y

We meet in sorrow tonight for one of our very good friends and compatriots has departed this life. He has been a member of our fraternity for more than 54 years. Just this morning I was fortunate enough to hear a tribute to this man who interested one of our long time members in Ham Radio many years ago. I don't ever recall anyone ever calling him Elmer, but I am sure there are many who call themselves Ham operators, who could not do this if it were not for him. His life was dedicated to the service of his country, the community, and most of all the people around him that he counted as friends.

68% of his life was spent in Amateur Radio. During that time he has seen the disasters called flood, windstormms and tornadoes and was available. Nine years of his life was used by our community when he served as the Chief of the Evansville Police Department.

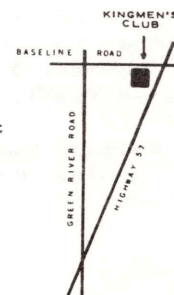
He is gone now from our midst. "Lefty" Covert will be remembered by far more than those of us here in this room. W9KVE has entered another world. His Key will never be silenced there.

73's Lefty

Editors Note: Above eulogy was given by John Lenn, WA9IVE at the last TARS meeting on November 13th. I think it says what all of us feel much better than anything I could write. Darwin "Lefty" Covert became a Silent Key last month and will be missed by all.

TARS Christmas Party this year is at the Kingsmens Club just off of Highway 57 at Baseline Road. Menu is Fried Chicken, Ham, Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Gravy, Rolls and of course a big cake.

For those of you who have never been to the Kingsmens Clubhouse we will have talk-in on the local repeater. Also you will find a map below. See You at the party. Santa will be there for all good Boys & Girls 8 to 80.



See YOU at  
the party.





### From the White House

I can't believe this is my last "From the Whitehouse" column already. It seems I was just elected president yesterday.

Looking back over the year; I know I have a lot of thank you's to express. I am going to do this here and now and in a general way -- so many do so much I don't want to leave anyone out.

First I want to thank the officers & the board of directors -- a finer bunch of people to work with you could never find. The club elected a fine group last year, it made my job very easy.

Next thanks go to all the people who helped in the various club functions -- I am talking about everything from Thunder to the monthly programs to the nets. We have a great club with a lot of involved people - Thanks for all your your time & energy.

There are two people I must thank individually now. They are KA9LQM & WA9IVE. As most of you know I had surgery in August and went back to college three weeks and a day later. I undertook a full time load at the university and continued to work full time on the evening shift at Deaconess. It is quite an understatement when I say my free time was null and void. John and Mike pitched in and took over my duties and I am very grateful to both of them for their fine work.

Now a few general thoughts about the club. Three topics come to mind - Club Equipment - Community Service and Finances.

A lot of our equipment is getting some age on it. We are nearing the point where it's hard to justify repairs when a few more dollars would obtain state of the art equipment. There's no doubt this is going to cost a bunch, but in the long run it may save more. We certainly need member input on this subject.

Our club is quite solvent but our major source of income is a one-shot event -- The Hamfest. These revenues have been slowly declining the last few years. If this is indeed a trend new thoughts have to arise about fundraising, dues, assessments, etc. Again, member input is desired.

And lastly -- our community service projects. The chairmen of the various events have indicated to me the difficulty they have in finding workers for some of these projects. I think the club has a definite decision to make -- Are we a Social Club or an Active Community Service Group?

There is certainly no shame if our group wants social activities only. The club should be what the majority of the members desire. However, if we do continue to commit to community service activities we have to meet those commitments and it is not fair to ask the same few to do it all. Member input is vital on this issue.

Well I want to thank everyone who made this year such a pleasure for me. It was an honor to be the 1986 President of TARS. Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Carolyn KA9LMO

## Product Review

MFJ 1270 TNC

Well instead of my normal Editors column I have a product review this month.

This is one column I never thought I would write, Me recommending a piece of MFJ Equipment, but strange as it may seem, they have a class act in the MFJ 1270 Packet Controller. It is a true TAPR-2 Clone and has all the standard things that all TNC's have. Lots of lights which make it look just fine under your Christmas Tree. Compatibility with all the Commodore computers, all computers with standard RS-232 outputs and special TTL line for those who prefer to use this logic signal rather than invest in a RS-232 converter for their commodore.

I have had the MFJ in Bulletin Board Service for over two months with no failures at all. It is build like a rock although it doesn't look that solid. I am from Missouri and had to be shown; and was.

Besides being a good piece of gear the price is one of the most competitive in the market today. Don't get me wrong the other manufacturers also make good TNC's however the price and quality combined make the MFJ this years Christmas Stocking Stuffer. You know the difference between men and boys is the price of their toys!. For a full technical review you can look in recent issues of CQ or QST, both gave glowing reviews to the unit.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and may all your Packets be Bright!

73 KA9LQM



## CONGRATULATION ELECTIONS

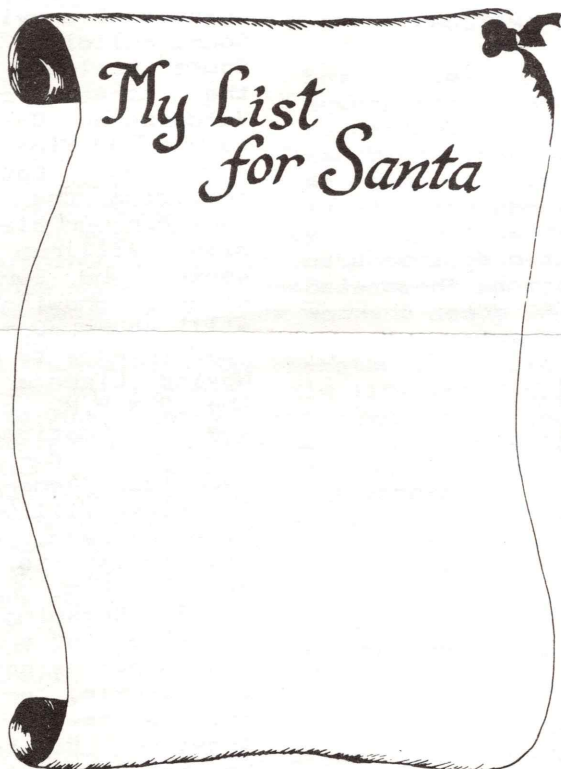
TARS annual election of Officers & Directors was held during the regular club meeting on November 13th, 1986 and the following were elected for 1987.

They will be installed at this years Christmas Party on December 19, 1986.

President,	John Lenn, WA9IVE
Vice-President,	Hal Wilson, WB9FNN
Secretary	Bob Henn, KA9TML
Treasurer	Charlie Sartore, N9DYE

Board of Directors	Cliff McGuyer, W9CM
Completing Term	George Utley, N9FMO
	Jim Shoptaugh, KA9KRE
Newly Elected	Charlie Finke, WB9NQD
	Ralph Waldo, K9STX
	John Small, W9FHA

Congratulation to the new Officers and Directors.



A note of thanks was received from The Covert Family for the contribution made by TARS to the Hadi Shrine Transportation Fund for crippled children in memory of Darwin, 'Lefty' Covert, W9KVE.

## Editor's Notebook

We in Amateur Radio in the state of Indiana are going to have the golden chance of a lifetime come next year. The pre olympic games "Pan American" games will be held in Indianapolis during 1987. At first Amateur radio was not going to have a large part in the games due to security and other concerns; however with some additional input from the Indiana State Police and INCERT it now looks like the involvement of Amateurs will be more extensive than originally planned.

How can you help, well it's simple SAY YES, if asked to help. This is going to be one you can't do from your living room chair. The cycling will be in Brown County near Bloomington, Indiana. YES I SAID BLOOMINGTON, almost a 100 miles from your favorite armchair. Details will be coordinated through the State EC's and DEC's; so watch SPARKS for further info on this important event.

## EVENTS

### NOVICE CLASSES January 14, 1987

January 31, 1987, All day Scout session for the electronic's & radio merit badge. This one will require about 15 licenced amateurs.

May 17, 1987, TARS HAMFEST  
Mark Your Schedule early help will be needed in the Kitchen and other areas. Contact Hamfest Chairman and volunteer your time to the only fundraiser we have.



## Congratulations on Licence Upgrades

### VOLUNTEER EXAMINER REPORT

November 22 and 23 VE Test Session Results:

Dave Wood, W9AJR	to Advanced plus 20 wpm code credit
George Utley, Jr., N9FMO	to Advanced
Ronald Terry, KA9GEK	to Technician
Michael O'Grady	from unlicensed to Technician
Lisa Price, KA9VLV	to Technician

Examiners were W9GJ, AE9Z, AK9G, KA9EIV, WB9VSQ and N9DYE

Assistants were N9DEO and WD9HUK

### PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT VOLUNTEER EXAMINER TEST

Test sessions for 1987 will be May 17th, August 22nd and November 21st.

### NART TO ISSUE COMMERCIAL TICKETS TO AMATEURS

The National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE) is one of the groups which stepped in to fill the void when the FCC decided to stop issuing broadcast radiotelephone licenses. NARTE has recognized the Advanced and Extra class license as equivalent to the NARTE Technician 4th. class entry level examination. Effective immediately NARTE will grant its entry level 4th. class certificate without endorsement to Advanced licensees and with one endorsement to those with the Extra class license. Note that NARTE does charge \$15.00 and \$20.00 annual fees for those classes.

## Treasurer's Report

### TREASURER REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Balance as of October 31, 1986		\$4074.22
Income		
Interest for November.....	17.49	
	-----	
Total Income -----	\$ 17.49	\$4091.71
Expenses		
Refreshments (Ice).....	2.80	
Memorials .....	25.00	
	-----	
Total Expenses .....	\$ 27.80	\$4063.91
Balance as of November, 30, 1986		\$4063.91

## LICENCE RENEWALS GRACE PERIODS

If you have a license good for a five year term, it's grace period, should you fail to renew, is five years. After two years of the grace period has elapsed, you will lose your call sign and will be assigned a new one. NOTE that the new ten year term licenses, which have been issued since January 1984 have only a two year grace period.

## NOVICE CLASS

We will be starting a Novice Licence class shortly after the first of next year. Classes start on Wednesday January 14, 1987. The location will be downtown Evansville in the Court Building. NOTE: The Court building is across the street for the Old Vanderburgh Courthouse at Fourth and Vine Streets.

Fred Cottrell is providing the conference room for our class use. The class will run for twelve weeks and currently the class is growing daily. It will cover everything you need to know to obtain your Novice Licence including the 5 W.P.M. code and is the foundation to build upon for your Technician/General theory. The class will be taught by Mike Anderson, KA9LQM and his assistants John Lenn, WA9IVE, Bob Henn, KA9TML and Ray Browning, KJ4HP.

Cost of the class is \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, or just two friends taking the class together. So tell all the Novice Prospects you know about the class or Phone me at 476-5572 for more information.

73 KA9LQM